

Women tipped for cabinet after Tories sweep back with 21 majority

Major plans reshuffle today

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major returned to Downing Street yesterday with his personal mandate and an overall majority of 21 seats, promising to unveil his new team of senior ministers today.

Telling staff it was good to be back, he quickly turned his attention to selecting his cabinet, which will include at least one woman, Gillian Shephard, the Treasury minister, and Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, are expected to figure in the reshuffle.

Mr Major's government was returned with 336 seats in the Commons in a result that confounded pollsters' expectations. Labour took 271 seats, with the Liberal Democrats on 20 and others on 24.

The Conservatives took 43 per cent of the vote, marginally more than under Margaret Thatcher in 1987 despite the recession. Labour took 35 per cent, up four points on 1987 and the Liberal Democrats took 18 per cent, a drop of five points on the level achieved by the SDP/Liberal Alliance at the previous general election. The turnout for Thursday's election was 77 per cent, compared to 73 per cent in 1987.

Last night some of the prime minister's senior colleagues were speculating that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, might move to a new post leaving Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, and John MacGregor, Leader of

the Commons, as the favourites to take over at the Treasury. Although Mr Major is said to have found his Chancellor rather cautious, Mr Lamont's associates feel that he has "taken the heat" while the economy has been in trouble and should be allowed more time in the job while the economy improves.

Colleagues say that Michael Heseltine, whose major role in the election campaign is acknowledged in No 10, could almost name his own post if he chose to be difficult. They do not, however, expect the environment secretary to cause trouble and believe that he would be happy with the revamped Department of Trade and Industry. Sir Norman Fowler, the former employment secretary who left Mrs Thatcher's cabinet to spend more time with his family, is one of the names being mooted for home secretary.

Chris Patten, who lost Bath in the election after trying to combine running the Tories' national campaign with nursing a highly marginal seat, will stay on for a short while as party chairman but has not yet made up his mind whether to continue his political career. Mr Patten has advised the prime minister against any attempt to create a by-election to get him back in the Commons although Mr Major is keen to see him back in a senior cabinet role.

Among those expected to leave the cabinet are Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Tom King, the defence secretary. Friends say that Mr Major is a reluctant butcher, but there are question marks too about the future of William Waldegrave, the health secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary who clashed with the prime minister before the election over the future of British Rail, and Peter Lilley, the trade secretary. However, not all of those ministers will go in the reshuffle, which is said to be intended to freshen up the cabinet without a radical restructuring.

In a change announced in the Tory manifesto the energy ministry will be wound up. There will be two new cabinet posts, one in charge of the national heritage ministry, which will also look after sport and the arts, and another for a minister to take charge of the citizen's charter and civil service reform.

Mr Major had planned to bring into the cabinet two Treasury ministers who lost their seats in the election, Francis Maude and John Maupies. The middle-ranking ministers who are in line for advancement to the cabinet are John Patten, who has been a highly capable minister of state for six years and who has an acknowledged flair for policy presentation, and Michael Portillo, the local government minister who had to push through the changes to the poll tax.



Sunny side of the street: John Major, back at No 10 and with Tory party chairman Chris Patten at his side, meets well-wishers and tourists in Downing Street on the morning after his famous victory

Beaten Kinnock will announce resignation

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock is to step down as Labour leader after failing in his second attempt to return the party to power.

He will announce his resignation on Monday after speaking to friends and colleagues in the party and trade union movement at the weekend. His decision will bring to an end an eight-and-a-half-year spell in the leadership that began after the party's disastrous election defeat in 1983.

Mr Kinnock has decided to clear the path for his successor as quickly as possible, and Labour will probably have a new leader within two months if, as is expected, he announces that a leadership election will take place as soon as a meeting of Labour's electoral college, made up of party members, MPs and the trade unions, can be arranged.

The favoured candidate to replace him will be John Smith, the shadow chancellor. Mr Smith had a heart attack in 1988 but has fully recovered. He endured a punishing schedule during the campaign and is firmly expected to throw his hat into the ring. Polls conducted during the election campaign suggested that the party would have fared better had he been its leader.

Other leading mainstream contenders — Gordon Brown, the trade spokesman, and Tony Blair, employment — are unlikely to stand if Mr Smith is in the race. He could, however, face a challenge from the soft left, with Bryan Gould, environment, Robin Cook, health, and John Prescott, transport, the possible contenders.

Mr Kinnock had given himself two chances to topple the Conservatives. But, in spite of opinion-poll indications that he would at least end up as the leader of the largest party in a hung parliament, he managed to achieve only a substantial cut in the government's majority. As a result he has decided it is time to make way for someone else.

By going quickly he hopes to minimise the internal party discord that may accompany the leadership election and to give his successor the maximum time to prepare for Labour's next push for government. A key factor in any contest could be the candidates' attitude to proportional representation, an issue that is expected to be the subject of a prolonged party debate after a fourth successive defeat under the first-past-the-post system.

Mr Cook, who made a

strong call for Labour to commit itself to PR yesterday, would be seen as the electoral reform candidate if he stood. Mr Smith has not firmly committed himself either way on PR.

Mr Kinnock was warmly praised, publicly and privately, by shadow cabinet colleagues yesterday for the way he had campaigned, and for the determination with which he had worked since 1983 to make Labour electable again, effectively bringing it back from oblivion. Publicly he admitted that they expected him to resign with dignity.

One senior shadow minister said it was a "tragedy of politics" that Mr Kinnock, having done so much for his party, should himself have been a factor in its defeat. The Conservatives have made no secret of claims that Mr Kinnock was one of their strongest cards.

Mr Kinnock waged a successful battle against the hard left during much of his leadership. He vanquished the

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City adds £20bn to the value of market

By RODNEY HOBSON

CHAMPAGNE flowed and shares soared as the City celebrated the Conservative victory. After trading shares and sterling all night, dealers virtually shut up shop at midday and flooded the Square Mile's wine bars.

The FT-SE index of the 100 top shares gained 136.2 points to close at 2,572.6, adding more than £20 billion to the value of the market. It was the biggest rise since shares bounced back after the October 1987 crash.

The pound gained two cents and 2½ pence as it soared against the dollar and the mark respectively to reach DM2.8995 and \$1.7645.

BT's partly paid shares, up 19p to 191½p, were the most keenly sought stock as trading volume reached 52 million shares. With nationalisation fears gone, the package of shares in the ten electricity distribution companies added £587 to £3,040. Water shares leapt 70p on average. VSEL leapt 40p to 370p with the lifting of Labour's defence cut threat. The one disappointment was the small fall in inflation announced yesterday, by 0.1 to 4 per cent. With the latest bout of mortgage rate cuts coming in, the City had expected the retail price index for March to register 3.8 per cent. The underlying rate, excluding mortgages and poll tax, rose 0.5 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

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Shares soar, page 41
Stock market, page 42

As Neil Kinnock pondered his political future after Labour's surprise failure to deny the Tories a majority, Mr Major said in Downing Street yesterday that he was looking forward to what he could do over the next five years. "I now have a clear majority. It's there for a full parliament and we can begin that work immediately."

"I am prime minister of all this country, for everyone, whether they voted for me or not, and that is something I shall never forget," he said.

In the City, investors went on a £20 billion share-buying spree with the pound rising against the D-mark. Conservative MPs were hoping that the new parliament, which is due to meet on April 27 for the election of a new Speaker, would get off on a good footing with a cut in interest rates. Mr Major said yesterday:

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STATE OF PARTIES

	Gains	Losses	Total
Conservative	11	44	336
Labour	48	5	271
Lib Dem	4	6	20
Others	2	10	24

Swing C to Lab: 2.06% Swing LD to C: 2.09% Swing LD to Lab: 4.15%

Full constituency results in supplement

Country's voters let the pollsters down

By MATTHEW PARRIS

HARK! Do you hear sounds in the electoral undergrowth? Do you hear the shuffle of feet? It is the pundits running for cover. It is the pollsters backtracking the commentators executing a series of neat little sideways steps.

Is that the wind that we hear in the trees, or the whispers of "surprise shift" and "sudden switch"? Is that flash of white in yonder bushes the bobtail of a retreating rabbit or the socks of a retreating pundit? Is it the murmur of the brook, or the murmur of "margin of error, margin of error" that fill the air?

After three weeks of confident pronouncement, not unremunerated, from us media experts, a great humility is suddenly upon us. All at once, it seems, we never did claim to know: we made our disclaimers clear at the

time — don't you remember? We saw through a glass only darkly — we always said so. We have been misrepresented. The election result was entirely consistent with our predictions: the problem is that you readers vulgarised and over-simplified our predictions. We have been cruelly misunderstood....

After yesterday's news, the careers of a hundred politicians may lie in ruins, but we commentators are getting out from under. Mr Kinnock may be losing his job, but — oh, my friends! — we are certainly not going to lose ours. We shall not be blaming ourselves that what we said did not square with what the voters did. It's the voters' fault. It's the politicians' fault. It's our readers' fault.

The swing was a few points out from what the exit polls predicted, you say? Ah, but you forget that opinion changes. It seems that voters

changed their opinions about how they had voted — after they had voted. And you forget the margin of error. Plus or minus three or four points either way and — hey presto! — the pollsters were spot on.

What's that I hear you protest? You say that if predictions of swing really offered only a 6 per cent band of possible outcomes, then why don't we present them like that? Have you considered what the result would look like? Think of the headlines: "Mori predicts a swing of between 2 per cent one way and 4 per cent the other"; "May or may not be a hung parliament — Gallup". Can you see news editors buying these? We'd soon be out of work.

Besides, what really blurs the clarity of our predictions is the infuriating habit voters have of changing their minds during the campaign. This is cheating. We offer you a snap-

shot of what you were thinking on Tuesday, you alter your opinions on Wednesday, you vote on Thursday, and then on Friday you complain that our predictions were out... That's bad enough. But this time you sprung a real shocker on us. You seemed to have changed your minds in the small hours of Thursday morning. It was unsporting, to say the least.

Even more unsporting were the politicians. Neil Kinnock wrecked the pundits' calculations by opening his mouth. He said he was on course for No 10. What sort of effect do you think that had on the voters? Half the people planning to vote Labour were contemplating this only because they assumed not too many other people

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THE NOT THE TIMES

OLIVER'S TWISTS



In 1642, King Charles faced a bloody conflict that would divide his country for a decade. Today, we publish a 12-page supplement to commemorate that fateful year, while Saturday Review looks at the contradictory traits in Oliver Cromwell's character

THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOPS



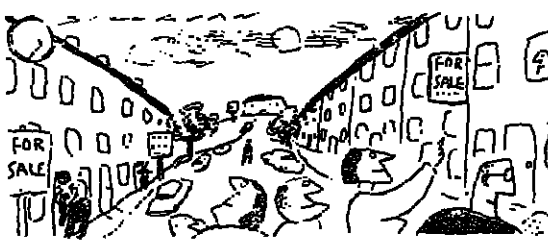
Ride a dinosaur, tickle a stingray, join the monkey walk: there are a hundred ways to enjoy Easter with the children in Weekend Times plus Jonathan Meades' worst-ever meal out and — for celebrating or drowning your sorrows — Jane MacQuitty's champagne tips

GREAT EXPECTATIONS



From Olympic contenders to wheelchair charioteers, from dedicated joggers to charity fund-raisers, 25,000 people will run, walk and tumble through the tortuous London Marathon tomorrow. Our guide to who, where and when to watch is on page 51

NOT SO BLEAK HOUSE?



Will the spring sun, a new government and a hint of cheaper mortgages bring buyers out into the streets and brighten the housing market? Weekend Money finds cheer for frustrated sellers but a cloud on the horizon for savers — on page 45

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Smith is favourite to succeed Kinnock as Labour leader

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith, the shadow chancellor, is the strong favourite to succeed Neil Kinnock as leader of the Labour party.

Mr Smith, aged 53, has been their apparent for almost as long as Mr Kinnock has been leader and many in the party argued privately both before and after the election that under Mr Smith the party would have won. The Scotsman is admired for his intellect, quick wit, repartee and statesmanlike professionalism.

Coming from the moderate right of the party, Mr Smith was seen by many as a more convincing politician than Mr Kinnock to implement the policies enshrined in the 1992 manifesto. Mr Smith has been accused of having an inflated ego but he is

has made clear that he would not oppose Mr Smith, Mr Brown has strong backing within the party.

Surprisingly, he did not have a high profile campaign, although as shadow trade and industry secretary he joined Mr Kinnock in wooing businessmen at the first of Labour's "business brunches". Yet at a Glasgow rally where Mr Kinnock was speaking, Mr Brown made an impressive warm-up speech.

His dour, cautious public manner and rigid professionalism have earned him friends and enemies in the party. Although privately the Scot is good company and a great entertainer, he does not project the same image publicly.

Politically at the centre of the party, Mr Brown is one of the most highly regarded of the party's 1983 intake. From 1985 to 1987 he was spokesman on regional affairs and shipping, becoming shadow chief secretary of the treasury in 1987.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary, is another strong contender from the younger generation. Mr Blair, aged 38, the youngest member of the shadow cabinet, had a good campaign. His boyish, handsome looks and soft-spoken manner were displayed regularly on television and on press conference platforms. Appearing alongside Mr Kinnock on several occasions during the campaign tour, he delivered a powerful warm-up speech at Mr Kinnock's final rally in his Islwyn constituency.

Mr Blair uses the confidence developed at public school and Oxford to drive home his political vision. A barrister by profession, he is quick to underline his "socialist" beliefs, stressing the need to combine individual freedom with community obligations. He rose from assistant shadow spokesman for Treasury affairs from 1984 to 1987 to shadow employment secretary.

Other possible contenders include Robin Cook and Bry-

an Gould. Mr Cook, who had a high profile during the election campaign because of the focus on health, would be the only soft left candidate. He is regarded as a brilliant debater in the house.

Mr Cook's acerbic wit, intellect and talent as a strategist have won him admirers throughout the party, although he does not display the warmth and passion of a great communicator.

Bryan Gould is also among the top runners. The charming shadow environment secretary, on the party's centre right, soared to popularity among MPs after he ran Labour's much acclaimed 1987 campaign.

Mr Gould's main task during the last parliament was to draw up the Labour party's "Fair Rates" alternative to the poll tax and council tax. He upset Mr Kinnock two years ago by rebelling against him on the eve of the party conference over the critical issue of defence spending.

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Smith: statesmanlike heir apparent

widely liked in the party. He has also been instrumental in building respect for the party in business and industrial circles.

A QC, Mr Smith, educated at grammar school and Glasgow university, joined the Labour party in 1955, becoming energy under-secretary in 1974 and then minister two years later. From there he rose through the ranks of the privy council office, becoming shadow spokesman for trade and industry, trade prices, energy and trade and industry before being appointed shadow chancellor in 1987.

If the party decided to skip a generation, Gordon Brown, aged 39, would be one of the top candidates. Although he

Speech of triumph turns into epitaph

MICHAEL POWELL



Facing up to defeat: Neil and Glenys Kinnock arriving at the Labour party headquarters in Walworth Road yesterday morning

At the Kinnocks' home yesterday the blinds were drawn on private grief. The dream is shattered but Neil Kinnock has been brave and dignified to the last, writes Alan Hamilton

er Labour can ever be an electable force again, either if it sticks with its new designer socialism or returns to old leftist roots.

On Thursday evening, buoyed by the inner conviction that an overall majority of 20 seats was possible, he retreated with his close entourage to a discreet country hotel deep in his Islwyn constituency. It was there that the first small harbingers of doubt came to perch on his shoulder, as the television disclosed early exit polls showing surprising support for Mr Major. Yet all was far from lost, and among early results there were some highly encouraging swings in Mr Kinnock's favour, in spite of the early disappointment of failing to take Basildon.

The following 90 minutes brought a gathering sense of doom. Yet the growing possibility of failure must have seemed the greater for being so unexpected. In many ways Mr Kinnock's confidence belied the scale of his task, for he still needed a bigger swing in his favour than that which brought Attlee his 1945 landslide.

By the time Mr Kinnock arrived for his own count at 12.05am, he had grown expressionless and impassive, ignoring the cameras. An increase of over 1,700 in his personal majority brought him no visible comfort.

He had prepared a speech of triumph but what he delivered had more of the flavour

of an epitaph. "I take this opportunity to dedicate myself to the service of my constituents, and in any capacity whatsoever to the people of my country."

There was audible strain in his voice when he went on: "I am proud to come from this area, I am proud to be British, and I will always be proud to serve democracy." Those were not the words of a man on his way to Downing Street.

Mr Kinnock has been brave, and he has been professional to the last. As he left the count as soon as the result was known and climbed into his car for a lightning dash up the M4 to Walworth Road, he worked on a speech. As he did so, he must have wondered where the fatal error lay in what had often appeared as a highly impressive campaign. Was it the ugly triumphalism of the Sheffield rally, with its gloating worthy of a recent occupant of No 10, or was it, for all the deep changes he had wrought on his party that had gone far beyond the cosmetic, that the electorate still suspected that old sleeping dogs might yet awake?

The Kinnocks arrived at Walworth Road at 4.45am. Neil managed a wave and a smile, while the smile of Glenys now appeared tired and thin. He spent half an hour with party bosses before emerging to make a last speech in front of a crowd that had thinned to fewer

than 200. It was a sad and flat end; he could not even find a working microphone to address the lingering faithful. He looked worn, disappointed and disillusioned, and his voice had lost almost all its confident timbre. But Mr Kinnock is a strong man, and he made a brief speech which in the circumstances was pointed, eloquent and courageous.

"I naturally feel a strong sense of disappointment, not so much for myself for I am fortunate, very fortunate, in my personal life. But I feel dismay, sorrow, for so many people in our country who do not share this personal good fortune and who, as a result of further years of Tory government, will experience further disadvantage. They deserve better than they got on April 9, 1992."

Yesterday, at the Kinnocks' home in Ealing, west London, the blinds were drawn on private grief as they used to be in the days of the first world war when a family had lost a son, although later in the day the couple emerged to hold a barbecue. Mr Kinnock's last public word before he retired to sleep had been in response to a question about his future. It would, he said, be long and wonderful. His admirers, of whom there are a great many, will wish it so, but it may not be at the despatch box, even on the left-hand side of the House.

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Electoral reform

Decision beckons on PR option

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR'S leaders will debate whether to commit the party to reform of the voting system after its fourth consecutive election defeat.

Robin Cook, shadow health secretary, made an impassioned appeal for change yesterday. He said that after this election the first-past-the-post system would have given Britain nearly 20 years of majority Tory government.

"If we had electoral reform as a basis for last night's results, then the probability is that by tonight Britain would have had a Labour/Liberal coalition. That is not what we are fighting for. It's not wonderful. But it's very much better than five years majority Conservative government. Labour must commit itself to PR."

Some of his shadow cabinet colleagues disagreed. One questioned whether raising PR towards the end of the election had helped the campaign. Another said that to regard PR as a panacea that would suddenly put Labour in power was wrong. The priority must surely be to discover why Labour had not been trusted and to put it right. An internal debate about PR should not be allowed to get in the way of that.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade secretary, said: "We have made clear that there should be a debate about the principle of electoral reform.

In many ways it is better it continues outside the horse-trading of electioneering." He said that debate on electoral reform should not be seen as any form of defeatism. Until recently Mr Cook has been one of a minority in the shadow cabinet overly in favour of PR. Others are shifting in their attitudes and Neil Kinnock is understood to be among them. What seems certain is that PR will be a key issue in a leadership election if Mr Kinnock stands down.

The argument for reform may be strengthened by the next Boundary Commission review of parliamentary seats, due during the next five years. It is thought likely to deprive Labour of between 12 and 18 of its stronghold constituencies because of the movement of population from the inner cities to the shires. Labour has climbed only halfway up the mountain of majority power. To add a few more miles at the top could make it insurmountable.

Labour's review of voting systems, set up years ago, is expected to produce its final conclusions this year. Mr Kinnock made plain during the election that, had Labour won, the review would have been upgraded into a full government committee joined by senior members of other parties.

The party has taken the first tentative steps towards embracing proportional rep-

resentation. If Labour had won, it would have legislated for a form of PR for a Scottish parliament and a new strategic body for London. Labour's review, chaired by Professor Raymond Plant, of Southampton University, will continue its work and make recommendations on the most appropriate voting systems for elections to the Com-

mons, the European parliament, assemblies for Wales and the English regions, the replacement for the Lords, and local government.

At that point, the leadership will have to grasp the nettle. It is a gamble: PR might be Labour's only hope of returning to power, but the party would be unlikely to govern on its own again.



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High street confidence Traders hope end to uncertainty will bring spending spree

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was last night opening its wallet in readiness for a post election spending boom as confidence flooded back to the High Street.

Travel agents, stores, car salesrooms, hotels and retail outlets of all kinds were expecting brisk trade as shoppers revived spending plans shelved during the run up to the election.

Telephone enquiries to travel agents increased sharply yesterday afternoon and, with good weather predicted for most of the country today, extra staff were being brought in by many shops to cope with an expected rise in demand.

"During the run up to the election, holiday bookings dropped sharply," the Association of British Travel Agents said. "Now the uncertainty is over we can expect a return to stability and fully expect a very busy weekend as many people book for last minute Easter holidays and for summer packages."

In an effort to stimulate further the surge in demand, Thomson Holidays is cutting the price of 80,000 holidays by an average of £40 and British Airways Holidays is reducing the cost of two weeks to Kenya by £100 and its city breaks by £40.

P&O said that cruise bookings had slumped over recent weeks as potential customers held back for fear that they could have been badly affected under Labour's tax proposals. "Already we have had many more telephone enquiries and expect to turn these into bookings," P&O said.

Peter Rothwell, marketing director of Lunn Poly, also reported many more enquiries, especially for long haul holidays to Florida and the Caribbean.

British resorts were confident of increased custom, and hoteliers, many of whom have struggled to fill half their rooms, predicted an immediate improvement.

Retailers, although confident, were slightly less euphoric than the travel trade. "I don't think there will be an actual boom," Stanley Kalms, chairman of the Dixons Group, said. "We are quite sure, however, that the recession is now ending and that we will be out of it by the end of the year."

Although early morning trade was quiet, possibly because customers were

Whitty is questioned after crash

Larry Whitty, the Labour party general secretary, was questioned yesterday in connection with an alleged assault on a police officer after an election night road crash.

Mr Whitty's car was involved in an accident with a police vehicle in Kennington, south London, soon after 4am yesterday. He was taken to Bow Street police station for questioning but later released on bail.

Souness's joy at victory

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager who is recovering in hospital after heart surgery, telephoned John Major to congratulate him on the Tory victory. Mr Major was asleep and an aide took the message.

Gerry Ritchie, a friend, said of Souness: "He is looking very fit and chirpy." The football manager had a heart triple by-pass operation four days ago.

Scots claim

A group of Scots wanting constitutional reform set out from Inverness yesterday to walk the 160 miles to Edinburgh. They plan to meet at the building once set aside for a Scottish parliament.

Gamble fails

Sheffield council, which set a budget £10 million higher than its treasurer advised in the belief that Labour would win the election, is faced with the task of making severe cuts in the wake of the Tory victory.

Garden meal

The Kinnock family had a barbecue of burgers, chicken and sausages with friends in the garden of their west London home yesterday evening after spending much of the day in seclusion.

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Happy day: Margaret Thatcher hails the Tories' "famous victory" outside her London home yesterday. "Full steam ahead," she urged her successor.

The City celebrates with champagne Shares up and bubbly down

By JON ASHWORTH

THE City toasted the Conservative victory in the way it knows best — with champagne, lots and lots of it. The London market's second biggest one-day rise sent prices through the roof, and dealers out to the nearest wine bar.

A huge overnight boost on the back of the victory sent the main index of leading shares, the FT-SE 100, soaring 136.2 to close at 2572.6. A less-than-expected dip in the inflation rate, from 4.1 per cent to 4 per cent, was all but ignored in the euphoria.

Lunch began at 11.30 and lasted well into the afternoon as stockbrokers, solicitors and bankers cracked open bottle after bottle. Hundreds of workers sat in sunshine at Broadgate Circle, London's answer to the Rockefeller Center, in New York, and swapped tales of a long night in front of the television.

Dozens more spilled onto the grass at Finsbury Circus Gardens in a wave of pin-striped suits and neatly pressed blouses. Many clutched glasses of champagne from the nearby Pavilion, a renowned City watering hole that had one of its busiest days for years.

It was the 1980s all over again. "We've sold over a hundred bottles of these, and it's only quarter to two," said David Gilmour, owner of the Pavilion, pointing to empty bottles of Louis Roederer and Moët et Chandon. The bar had taken £3,000 in a little over two hours, and that was just from champagne.

Corney & Barrow, a popular bar overlooking the Circle, had to order emergency supplies of champagne to keep up with demand.

By 1pm, up to 600 people had forced their way in, eager to capture the moment. City gents stood six-deep at the bar. Within two hours, 240 bottles of champagne worth up to £8,000 had been consumed. Another 120 bottles, worth £4,000, were sold at the Lloyd's of London branch.

Opinions were mixed. "We are fully behind Mr Major," a foreign exchange dealer from UBS Phillips & Drew said. A colleague shook her head in dismay. "We're probably stuck with the Conservatives for ever now," she sighed.

'Target the rich' policy backfires

Anatole Kaletsky shows why Essex Man joined forces with champagne socialists

To an economist, it always seemed that 1992 would be an excellent year to win an election. The economy is in such deep recession that it has nowhere to go but up. Economic recovery fizzled out last autumn partly because of the anxiety created by the election itself. With the political uncertainty now swept away far more definitively than anyone had expected, the engines of economic activity — personal consumption, house buying and industrial investment — should soon start to move.

The government's handling of the economy may have added a million people to the dole queues but it has also left a tempting legacy for the new parliament: low inflation, a credible commitment to a fixed exchange rate and plenty of workers and factories to be brought back into productive use as demand picks up. The political and economic cycles are turning again in tandem, and if John Major needs to increase his majority or renew his mandate, he should find plenty of favorable opportunities to do so in the next few years.

The new government will still face plenty of pitfalls. The world recession is not over and many exporting companies may be unable to cope with the strong pound in the long term. As a result, Britain may have to manage another big transition away from manufacturing industry towards services, and a further redistribution of wealth and income from the North to the South. As the 1996 deadline for European monetary union approaches, Mr Major could face a question that could yet destroy his majority. Will he commit himself to full-scale political as well as economic integration in a united states of Europe if this is the price the Germans demand for EMU to go ahead? Finally, it remains to be seen whether Mr Major's unexpected triumph makes him more or less willing to challenge the Treasury mandarins whose professional judgments proved economically disastrous, but were vindicated politically in the end.

Whatever the Treasury does to the economy, it is unlikely to match the record of incompetence in the past five years. For Labour, therefore, the latest defeat could be even more decisive than the routs of 1983 and 1987. Had Labour presented a clear alternative to the deflationary monetary and exchange rate policies pursued since 1989 by Mr Major, it might have established itself as a party that offered secure job prospects, lower mortgage rates and rising incomes. Instead, it deliberately co-opted itself into the high interest rate deflation associated with the ERM.

Labour then magnified its error by building its whole economic strategy round higher taxes. Its new taxes were carefully calculated to affect only the "rich". This was the party's fatal error. Not only did the new taxes reinforce the party's austere anti-consumption image, even its careful targeting of the rich was a mistake.

Labour strategists decided that they could afford to alienate the champagne socialists of central London and the leafy suburbs, as long as they did not hurt Basildon Man. But they forgot about the aspirations of lower middle class voters. In trying to punish the rich, they lost the hearts of aspiring Basildon voters. And they forced the champagne socialists to vote Tory with their wallets, even if their hearts were with Labour or the Lib Dems.

Ken Livingstone, the leaving firebrand from Brent, saw the truth at once: "We threw it away by waivering down true socialism and scaring the voters with higher taxes at the same time."

Can generous social provision be reconciled with private wealth and moderate taxation? This is the question that Labour and Liberal Democrats must answer if they ever want to replace the Conservatives. They now have plenty of time to work on this conundrum.

A travesty of democracy

As usual, the number of Parliamentary seats won by each party in the Election bears little or no resemblance to their share of the popular vote.

Some parties are grossly over-represented, others iniquitously under-represented.

In other words all voters are equal but some are more equal than others.

It's a travesty of democracy.

Our electoral system was designed at a time when transportation was arduous and communications were painfully slow.

It was never a perfect system, made in Heaven and carved in stone. It was the best system that could be devised at the time.

And over the last century or so it has become one of the worst.

Now it is as antiquated as an old gramophone, muffling and distorting the voice of the people.

Throughout the world other countries survive and thrive with electoral systems that are both more democratic and more efficient than ours.

In Europe we are now the only country that still clings to the outmoded first-past-the-post system.

The Electoral Reform Society is committed to changing things.

We want a system that is both fair and efficient - a system based on proportional representation.

And every single opinion poll on the subject shows that the majority of the public agrees with us.

If you, too, believe that our ludicrously unreasonable system can't be allowed to continue, why don't you support us?

It is no good waiting until the next election. By then it will be too late. We need to get going now.

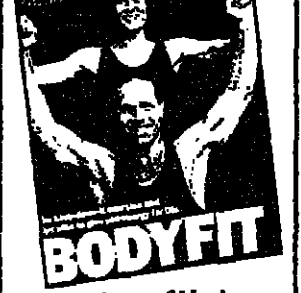
Some won, some lost in campaign

WINNERS	LOSERS
Chris Patten Jennifer's mother (Mrs Bennett votes Tory) The Central Office fax machine Youth over experience Share values The secrecy of the ballot box	Chris Patten Jennifer's father (Mr Bennett votes Labour) Political pundits everywhere Richard Lambert, editor FT By-election victors Mori Harris, NOP, Gallup, all exit polls
Seb Coe Glenda Jackson Mrs Thatcher ITN David Owen (he finally backed a winner) Soapbox makers The counting agents at Sunderland South Timothy and Amanda in Central Office Torbay (Best backdrop to returning officer)	Scottish nationalism BBC (again) PR (public relations and proportional representation) Sleep Peter Snow's Swingometer Jon Snow's tie Peter Kellner Peter Sissons The bookies Anyone called Peter, except Mandelson Ben Elton (least original excuse — blaming the press) Levitation Meditation Coalition Pink, as worn by Glenys Kinnock Des Wilson's complexion Whoever makes way for Chris Patten's by-election Journalists assigned to Walworth
Coe: racing home backdrop to returning officer Pink, as worn by Norma Major Journalists assigned to Central Office (the Journalist went on until dawn) David Mellor's grin Welsh nationalism Essex man Sports halls and leisure centres (unprecedented use of) Sid James (Tory supporter, according to The Sun's medium)	Elton: no joke Road (the party never happened) The three-party system Gerry Adams Rosie Barnes John Cartwright Oratorical skills Scots Rory Bremner's impersonation of John Cole Tax inspectors Paul Boateng "We're a happy party tonight"

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So says John Cleese, who along with the



Duchess of York, benefited from the expertise of the world's top personal trainer, Josh Salzmann. For three weeks in The Sunday Times Josh will do the same for you. Bodyfit starts tomorrow, in The Sunday Times Magazine.

Campaign hits and misses

Over-the-top rally left Kinnock exposed

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

IN THE end it was the triumph of guts over glitz. John Major's success in winning an election most of those about him had given up for lost probably owes more to psychology than to psephology. And if there was a key moment, some of his ministers believe that it came with Labour's over-the-top rally in Sheffield on what came to be known as Red Wednesday.

Labour's senior figures were convinced that they were on their way to government. They allowed the whole affair to reek with an air of triumphalism. The effect was compounded by the fact that a Mori poll in *The Times* that morning had given Labour a seven-point lead and the City markets had picked up their skirts and run.

Suddenly the electorate began to take seriously the prospect of a Labour government. That element of Neil Kinnock's personality which has always grated with floating voters was emphasised and those who had something to lose under a Labour government began to think twice about continuing to punish the Tories for their errors over the poll tax and their management of the economy. The Conservatives had their chance and used it.

The history of the Conservative campaign, which was subjected to great criticism, is now being rewritten in the light of the 21-seat Tory majority. Mr Major and Chris Patten, the Tory party chairman, knew that they faced a daunting task. They were trying in a sophisticated democracy to arrest the natural swing of the pendulum against the background of a recession which had hit hardest many of the people the Tories liked to call their own. Mr Patten and the Tory ad-men were eventually proved right in believing that the strongest line of all for them was the old repeated slogan "You can't trust Labour".

The Tory leadership decided to run several risks. First was a largely negative campaign based on highlighting the fears about Labour's likely tax burden and on contrasting the experience and ap-

proach of Mr Major and Mr Kinnock, an already proven election fighter.

Secondly, against the background of a stack of opinion polls suggesting that a hung parliament was likely, the prime minister decided on an all or nothing strategy. He insisted on every opportunity that he would do no deals and would not contemplate proportional representation.

Thirdly, despite the urgings of many within his own party that it was time for a concession to the rising tide for Scottish devolution, he and his advisers took the view that there was nothing for the Tories in being the fourth best devolution party. Instead



Lamont: trained fire on Labour tax proposals

he played the union card for all it was worth, insisting that any concession to devolution would threaten the strength of the whole United Kingdom.

Labour's strategy, by contrast, was a safety-first one of leaving the government to lose the election. Labour's press conferences were polished, drilled and regimented, with supplementary questions ruthlessly ruled out. The aim was to drive to the top of the agenda the "caring" issues of health, education and pensions.

Mr Kinnock and his team also pushed home the idea that only a Labour government would take "action" to counter the recession with jobs, training and investment packages. And then there was their one big risk: they decid-

ed to tackle head-on fears about their taxation policies with the much-publicised "shadow budget" by the canny and comforting John Smith, a man on whom no interviewer ever laid a glove.

Mr Major told friends that Mr Smith's shadow budget had presented the Tories with the election by hitting the middle classes with unexpected savagery. But voters, the vast majority of them earning less than £22,000 a year and ending as net gainers under Mr Smith's carefully drawn plans, reacted well. After several days the Tories had to focus instead on the claimed impact on lower-earning taxpayers of implementing Labour's manifesto promises.

Then the two major parties blew the health issue over "Jennifer's ear". Labour revealed a class spite and the Tories were caught out feeding material to the tabloid press. Paddy Ashdown and the Liberal Democrats stayed out of the whole affair and won brownie points from a disgusted public.

The Liberal Democrats confronted the wasted vote argument. They picked up more moral brownie points by promising to increase income tax by 1p to pay for an improved education system. The party's reward was to see its issues of proportional representation and the constitution raised to the top of the agenda. Suddenly the Tories were fighting on two flanks.

Those who claim to have espied the seeds of Tory victory in all this are less than honest. Virtually every journalist covering the daily press conference, this one included, believed that Labour was well ahead on campaign points. But I do recall his close colleagues telling me of Mr Major's belief at the start of the campaign that the Liberal Democrat vote would crumble in the final week and hand the Tories their victory.

He was right. And it only adds to his new authority that Mr Major owes few other people (although they include Michael Heseltine, Chris Patten and Douglas Hurd) for that victory. He took the risks and he has won the prize.



Window on the world: celebrating Tory supporters share their delight at central office early yesterday

Smith Square brat pack has last laugh

They were too naïve, too negative and, when all seemed lost, they were to blame. Now the young Turks are getting their own back. Andrew Pierce writes

CHRIS Patten's babes came of age yesterday. The youthful campaign team at Conservative Central Office, dubbed the "brat pack" by older and more experienced colleagues, at last had something to smile about.

Having been universally blamed for the Tories' lacklustre campaign, they felt vindicated as they opened yet another bottle of champagne at Conservative party headquarters. "The brat pack hits back," David Cameron, aged 25, an Old Etonian and one of the powers behind the throne at Smith Square, said. Mr Cameron, who briefed John Major and the party chairman twice a day, says: "Whatever people say about us, we got the campaign right. Otherwise we would not have won."

As the press criticism of the campaign intensified, some of the youngsters came close to cracking under the strain. You could spot them a mile off. Bags under their eyes. Pallid skin. They used to capnap at their desks in central office during any mid-after-

noon lull in proceedings. Mr Cameron says: "Not being battle-hardened veterans, we had to learn to take the flak on the chin. But after the first two weeks we just got our heads down and decided to listen to what we were being told by our workers on the ground rather than the opinion pollsters, and especially newspaper reporters."

As the results came in, Mr Cameron and his colleagues could not contain their exuberance. Mr Cameron led the young Turks, including Steve Hilton, aged 22, the link man to Saatchi & Saatchi, and Alex Aitken, aged 24, another key lieutenant, across Smith Square to chant and cheer outside Transport House, one of the frequent targets of their campaign.

Mr Hilton, who was not old enough to vote at the last

election, was so excited when he voted on Thursday that he rang Mr Cameron from the polling booth, on the inevitable mobile telephone, to say: "I have done it. I have finally voted. They can't write that about me in the papers any more."

Shaun Woodward, aged 33, the central office communications director, who came to politics from Esther Rantzen's *That's Life* programme only 15 months ago, said that the Tories won because of, not in spite of, the campaign. The youth policy he had implemented for Mr Patten had worked. "Labour's campaign was praised, but they lost. Our campaign was criticised and we won. It speaks for itself," Mr Woodward said. He was reduced to tears by the defeat of Mr Patten. That could, a

cynic might say, have been because the man who employed him may not be there to protect him when the inquest into the campaign begins. "I am certainly not clearing my desk," Mr Woodward said. "We won."

However, Mr Woodward and Andrew Lansley, aged 35, head of the research department, who became an increasingly isolated figure at central office as the campaign progressed, are already considering their future. Members of the brat pack, who yesterday were hoping to become known as "campaign veterans", may also be tempted by richer pickings in the private sector.

Despite the result, they know they have made enemies at Smith Square, especially among the more experienced apparatchiks who felt they were not used properly during the campaign. But it could just be that the young guns, which were accused of not firing properly only a few days ago, could still be calling the shots for a long time to come.

Lib Dems

Leaders put blame on scare stories

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats were the victims of Labour, Paddy Ashdown said yesterday as he came to terms with his party's failure to make a breakthrough in the election.

As voters returned 20 Liberal Democrat MPs, Mr Ashdown and Des Wilson, his campaign director, blamed the last-minute defection of many supporters into the Tory camp on "scare stories" that a vote for the Lib Dems would put Neil Kinnock in Downing Street.

The party's way ahead will be subjected to intense scrutiny in the coming weeks in the wake of the double blow of the poor result and the Conservatives' outright majority, eliminating the prospect of Mr Ashdown being a power-broker in a hung parliament.

The Liberal Democrat leader fought hard yesterday to mask his despair at the loss of six seats behind delight at snatching the prizes of Bath (Don Foster), Cheltenham (Nigel Jones), North Devon (Nick Harvey) and North Cornwall (Paul Tylen) from the Tories, as well as Liz Lynne's success in fending off the Labour threat and succeeding Sir Cyril Smith in Rochdale.

He argued that Labour had proved it could not win under the first-past-the-post system and must now join the Lib Dems in embracing proportional representation. Under PR, the Liberal Democrats would have had 108 seats in the new parliament, he said. "The Labour party has once again found that it cannot beat the Conservatives even in the pit of a recession and after the poll tax. The election result confirms that the first-past-the-post system cheats voters out of what they want."

Mr Ashdown refused to speculate on his future strategy or the prospect of drawing up a pact with Labour not to challenge each other in elections. The idea of some sort of coalition between the two parties is expected to be mullied over in the months ahead.

The party's strategy of concentrating its fire on a few constituencies appears to have backfired. The Lib Dems won few of the seats of the "hit list", where their limited resources were focused and candidates in other seats were left almost devoid of support.

Tory chairman's future

Patten may wait in the wings

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE champagne corks at last fell silent at Conservative Central Office yesterday, one man had already slipped away from the party to ponder his future. Chris Patten had won the war only to lose his private battle with the Liberal Democrats in Bath.

The defeat of the Tory party chairman was one of the few clouds on John Major's horizon yesterday as he settled down to complete his cabinet reshuffle. The two men are not close personal friends - Mr Patten prefers opera to soccer - but they have a strong regard for one another and the Tory chairman's writ runs far beyond the mechanics of campaign planning.

He is the closest thing to a philosopher king in the ideology-free zone Mr Major is creating around him at Downing Street and his elegant pen and intellectual flair will be missed at the cabinet table.

Defeat at the hands of Donald Foster, a management consultant aged 45, came as little surprise to Mr Patten. The centre party flooded his constituency with volunteers drawn from all parts of the country. More than a week ago he was conceding privately that his 1,412 majority would not be enough to save him. Well before the result was announced early yesterday, he telephoned his senior staff at central office to tell them he had lost by at least 2,000 votes.

His colleagues were consumed yesterday by speculation about the fate of their fallen leader. The most likely outcome is that Mr Patten will stay on as Tory chairman for next month's local government elections and step down at the party conference in the autumn. Mr Major wants him back in the cabinet as soon as possible, but he could be reluctant to resort to the obvious device of sending one of his backbenchers to the Lords and holding a by-election. The electorate has a history of punishing governments that employ such ruses to protect their own.

Senior party sources suggested yesterday that Mr Patten could be edged from frontline politics for the next four years while he found a safe seat or waited for a boundary review in Bath to perhaps enhance his chance of a successful comeback. The upshot is likely to be a new Tory chairman by the autumn. With the party back in power and central office on a care and maintenance basis for the next couple of years, Mr Major may follow recent precedent and choose to blood one of his junior ministers in the job. Another possi-

bility is a return to the colours for Jeffrey Archer. The names of Sir Norman Fowler and David Mellor have also been linked with Smith Square.

Lack of money will be the main hurdle facing the incoming chairman. The Conservatives went into the campaign with an overdraft of about £10 million and an election war chest of around £20 million. In spite of the closeness of the campaign, not all this money was spent, mainly because Mr Patten and Mr Major shied away from a 1987-style newspaper advertising blitz in the last week. Money also poured into central office during the campaign. However, as staffing numbers fall back from their campaign peak of 500 full-timers and volunteers to about 150 permanent staff, the new chairman will have to try to balance the books.

Had the Tories lost the election, Shaun Woodward, the director of communications and the party's chief link with Saatchi, its advertising agency, would have been one of the scapegoats. Victory has changed all that and Mr Woodward emerges with his reputation enhanced. He would like to be an MP and he will probably remain at central office for the time being while he casts around for a promising seat.

ing, publishing and films, phase a large civil service back-up, although details have not yet been spelt out.

Tim Renton, arts minister, is unlikely to carry the arts portfolio through to the cabinet. Top of the list of possible fun ministers is David Mellor, chief secretary to the Treasury, who previously served as arts minister for a few months.

Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, could be a candidate. He is an author and the editor of a book of verse. If the prime minister wants to bring a woman into the cabinet, Virginia Bottomley could win the promotion many say she deserves. However, some say Alan Howarth, co-author of the Conservative policy document on the arts, might well be Mr Fun.

Culture stake claims to seat of power

ALREADY dubbed the ministry of fun, the newest government department's chief might be the Secretary of State for Heritage, Arts, Media and Sport - Hams.

Civil servants in the Office of Arts and Libraries are toying with the notion of working in Bars (Broadcasting, Arts, Recreation and Sport) or being Bats (Broadcasting, Arts, Tourism and Sport).

Whatever its name, the promised department will amount to the most powerful cultural ministry in the world, taking in not only arts and broadcasting but sport, heritage, tourism, film and control of a national lottery that the government has promised to introduce in 1994.

From the lottery would come a mil-

Simon Tait considers the responsibilities of the promised Minister of Fun

lennium fund mainly to restore cultural buildings and promote Manchester's bid to host the Olympic Games in the year 2000.

The present Office of Arts and Libraries has a civil service staff of 57 and a boss who doubles as civil service minister. It occupies a rear corner of the Cabinet Office. The proposed replacement, with its chief in the cabinet, would be such that the new secretary of state would need junior ministers for sport and tourism, heritage and arts and probably broadcast-

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Verdict on forecasts

Voters made fools of pollsters and pundits

BY IVOR CREWE

THE election made fools of the polls, and the pundits and politicians who depend on them. Four forecast polls were published on election day, NOP and Mori put Labour slightly ahead, by 3 and 1 points respectively. ICM placed them level-pegging, and only Gallup reported the Conservatives ahead, but by a half point. In reality the Conservative lead was 6 points.

The average of the four polls was Conservative 38, Labour 39, Liberal Democrats 19; in the event, the result was Conservative 42, Labour 36, Lib Dems 18.

Separate polls in Scotland fared equally badly. The two polls conducted closest to the election — System 3 for *The Herald* and ICM for *The Scotsman* — averaged out at Conservative 22, Labour 41, Lib Dem 12, SNP 25. The actual vote was Conservative 26, Labour 39, Lib Dem 13, SNP 21. Just as in Britain as a whole, there was a 3 per cent swing from Labour to Conservative between the final polls and the real result.

The polling business was saved by the Harris exit poll for ITN which put the parties on Conservatives 41, Labour 37, Lib Dems 18. But this poll's accuracy went largely unnoticed because ITN's seats forecast of Conservative 305, Labour 294 proved incorrect. Had ITN relied on the national uniform swing assumption, it would have forecast a Conservative overall majority of 16 (334 seats to Labour's 267) and would have been almost spot on. By assuming variations of swing across regions and between safe versus marginal seats it underestimated the scale of the Conservative victory.

BBC television commissioned an exit poll of marginal seats and did not announce a national share of the vote. But it said that the national swing was between 5 and 6 per cent when in fact it was between 2 and 3 per cent. An ICM exit poll for *Today* was even wider of the mark, giving Labour a 3 per cent lead.

The 1992 election is the worst disaster the pollsters have suffered since 1970, when four out of five polls wrongly predicted a Labour win. But in some ways it is even more serious. In 1970, the error was attributed to the fact that the polls completed their interviewing three days before polling. Since then, pollsters have continued interviewing until the late afternoon before polling day.

The pollsters will be re-interviewing their respondents this weekend. A variety of speculative explanations will be offered, but none of them is self-evidently true. The pollsters cannot pin the blame on margin of error. While it is true that each forecast poll was subject to a

Ivor Crewe says the pollsters have to think again

plus/minus 3 per cent margin of error for each party, the chances of four polls being out by that much for both the Conservative and Labour parties is about 160,000-1.

Nor was sample size the problem. The size of the forecast polls was double the normal and the same as that for previous elections, when forecasts have been accurate. The misleading BBC exit poll had a sample size of 14,000.

There was evidently a very late but significant swing to the Conservatives. Some of this surge came from the unusually large proportion of "don't knows" (which the pollsters had noted in the media) but some must have come from wavering Liberal Democrats and Labour supporters. The polls asked the undecided and the waverers which party they leaned towards but got misleading an-

swers suggesting that the Liberal Democrats would be the main beneficiaries of any last-minute switching. One urgent area of investigation for the pollsters will be the measurement of indecision and of potential support for other parties.

Some pollsters have claimed that the tax issue, or the parties' general economic competence or Neil Kinnock's qualification to be prime minister swayed voters at the last minute. But the polls recorded a small and narrowing gap between the Conservative and Labour parties on all three items.

Another difficulty for the polls is that forecasting can be a self-denying prophecy. The Conservatives began to recover immediately after Black Wednesday's polls, which pointed to an overall Labour majority. This may have frightened waverers back into the Tory fold. Thereafter poll after poll pointed to a hung parliament. Independent polling evidence suggests that voters decided in increasing numbers over the last week that they preferred a decisive result.

The final puzzle is that, whatever its cause, the late swing should of been picked up by the election day exit polls, yet of the three only the Harris/ITN poll got the result right.

Exit polling faces two problems. One is how to ensure a representative sample of polling stations when there is little independent data about the composition of polling districts. The other is how to deal with those who refuse to say how they voted. They are concentrated among the elderly and women, who tend to be Conservative, but it is tricky to know how far to adjust for that. The pollsters will have to think afresh about such problems.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex

Bob Worcester, election supplement, page ix

BBC wins ratings war but ITN first on results

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE traditional winner of the election night television ratings battle has again proved to be the loser in the race to report the results. The BBC attracted millions more viewers than Independent Television News but those who strayed to ITN were told most voting figures first.

From the moment that the BBC's Kate Adie was left giggling in Torbay as ITN broadcast the only live picture of the first result from Sunderland South, ITN was relentless, reporting 80 per cent of the results before the BBC.

Not only was ITN first to forecast an overall majority for the Conservatives early yesterday but it beat the BBC by 30 minutes to confirm its forecast before noon yesterday. ITN reported that the Tories had secured the magic number of 326 seats at 11.56am but the BBC felt unable to report the news until 12.26pm. By the time 621 seats were declared just after 4am, ITN had been first with 494 results and the BBC with 127.

But the BBC, whose spectacular set with neon swingometer and huge screens far outshone the small ITN studio from which Jon Snow and Alastair Stewart relayed the results, boasted that it had not broadcast "a single false result". ITN gave three incorrect results, in North Devon, Medway and Newham North West.

ITN announced results in 12 constituencies hours before the counting had stopped, and in Wolverhampton before all the ballot boxes had been opened. Most embarrassingly, ITN reported that Tony Banks, the Labour MP, had lost his Newham seat when he had retained it with a 10,000 majority. Tony Hall, director



Anchor man: David Dimbleby, who headed the BBC's team of pundits

of BBC news and current affairs, said: "The BBC could not afford to make the mistakes ITN has made. Our forecasts and our reporting moved more slowly because it was important that we got it right. And we did."

David Mannion, editor of ITN bulletins on ITV, said: "These were minuscule errors brought about by someone pushing the wrong button. The BBC's errors

were far more significant: no outside broadcasting unit at Sunderland and a failure to realise the significance of the Basildon result. That was the moment signs of relief could be heard in Central Office. We recognised it and changed our forecasts."

BBC pundits were criticised for remaining too loyal to the NOP exit poll when forecasting the likely outcome as the night wore on. John Cole, the political edi-

tor, seemed unable to believe a Tory majority was possible until it had happened. But Mr Hall insisted that the pundits around David Dimbleby's table "subtly steered viewers clearly towards the result through the night".

The BBC's £20,000 16ft swingometer was put to little use. The swings to Labour were so small and so erratic that Peter Snow was forced to use more conventional graphics.

Exit polls lead TV down false trail

BY MARY ANN SIEGHART

AFTER the BBC's exit poll in 1987 wildly underestimated the Conservative share of the vote, the corporation swore that such a mistake would never happen again.

The BBC conducted one of the biggest post-mortems in psephological history and the 1992 poll was designed to avoid the mistakes of its predecessor. Yet still, at 10pm on Thursday night, the BBC was predicting that the Tories would be 25 seats short of a parliamentary majority. The Conservatives ended with a majority of 21. Harris's poll for ITN projected the Tories 21 seats short.

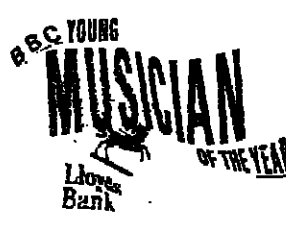
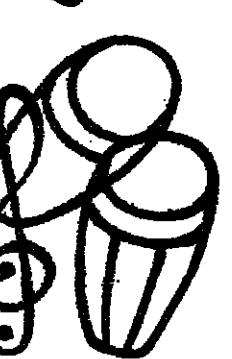
The exit poll errors explain why both TV stations, for the first hour or two, continued to predict a hung parliament, despite the evidence of the votes coming in. Most of the early results showed a much smaller swing to Labour than the exit polls, suggesting a Tory majority, but the effect of the exit polls acted as a drag on the computer predictions.

Why did not the TV pundits look at the results coming in from the constituencies and realise that their own polls might have been wrong? Were they simply too timid?

The opinion polls published by newspapers on polling day seemed to vindicate the television findings. The early results did have a few wild variations in the amounts of swing. When the Conservatives held Basildon, a marginal that Labour should have won, warning bells should have rung. Yet Pendle, at roughly the same time, showed a swing to Labour of 4.5 per cent, closer to the BBC's prediction of a 6 per cent swing and enough if repeated nationally to deprive the Tories of their majority.

But most important, both stations had made a large financial and thus psychological commitment to their polls.

ITN, for instance, spent more than £100,000 and employed about 1,000 people.



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Scottish backlash

MP demands action to disrupt Commons

By KERRY GILL

LABOUR'S frustration at failing to win power at Westminster last night boiled over in Scotland with calls from prominent party members and MPs for civil disobedience and deals with the Scottish National Party to form an anti-Tory coalition.

George Galloway, MP for Glasgow, Hillhead, spoke of "superdoomsday" with squabbling between opposition parties allowing the Tories to improve in spite of a lack of popular support. "The Tories and their friends are laughing all the way to the bank at the disunity in Scotland," he said. "We must extend the hand of friendship to the SNP. We must unite the anti-Conservative forces in Scotland."

"Three out of four Scots have rejected the Tories again. We need a patriotic front of all the parties who are against them. If we mobilise we can disrupt Parliament."

A resurgence of Scottish Labour Action, the pro-nationalist pressure group that opposed the poll tax, is expected. John McAllion, MP for Dundee East, said that playing by Westminster rules was no longer an option for Labour in Scotland, which had been left powerless yet holding 49 seats compared with the Tories' 11.

Mr McAllion said that the Scottish Constitutional Convention, first convened three years ago to discuss a devolu-

tion package but boycotted by the SNP, should be used as the vehicle to unite all opposition parties demanding constitutional change.

Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, said he hoped that the nationalists would join in the convention. "If the SNP is serious about wanting to work with Scotland then they will compromise," he said.

Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said: "The Labour party have conned the Scottish people for the fourth time in a row. They promised they would deliver a Scottish parliament in a tick. That is now exposed as a fraudulent prospect. Instead they have delivered Scotland into the hands of a fourth English Tory government."

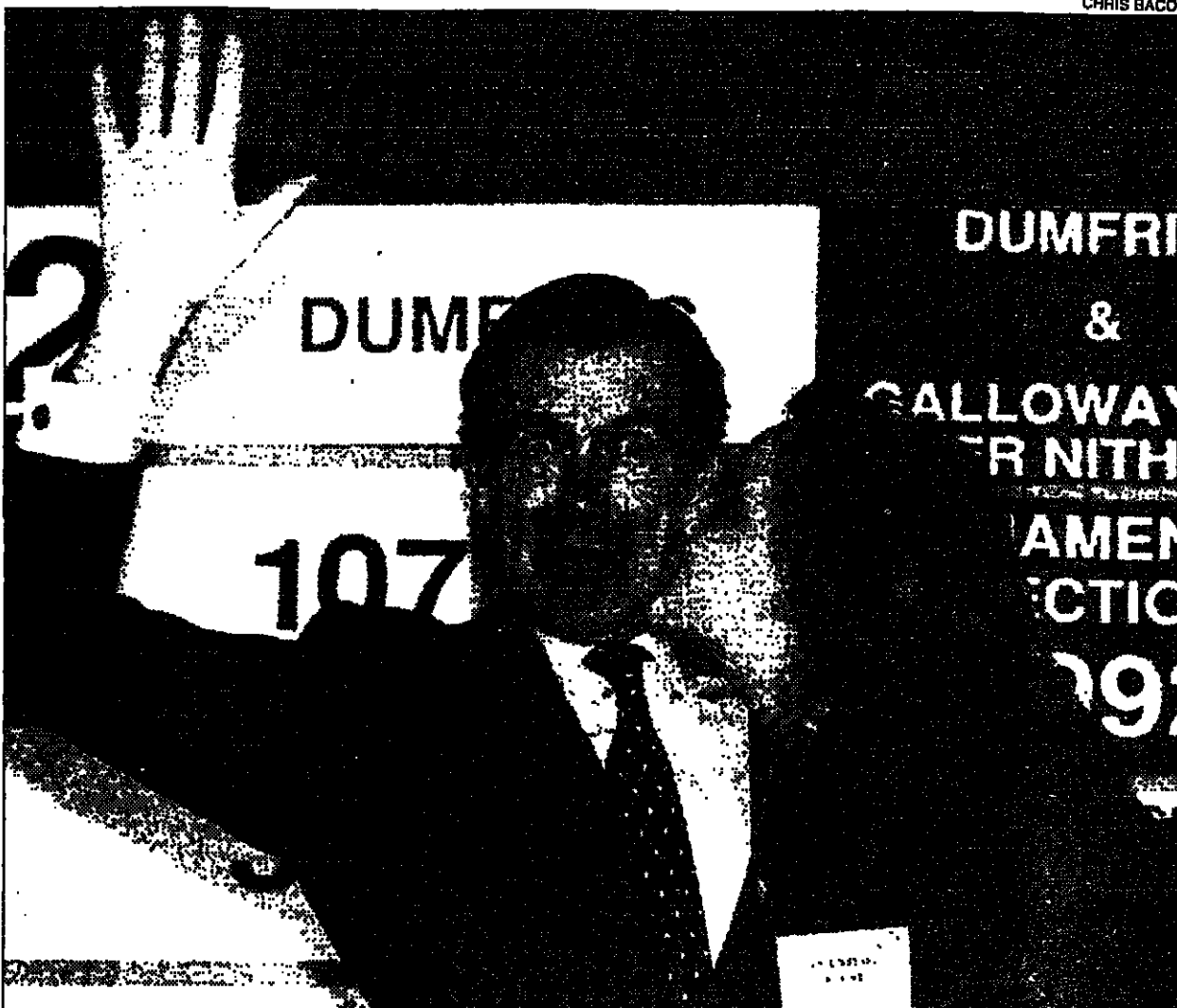
Yesterday, the Scottish Tories were describing their 11 seats as a victory, although five years ago they conceded that their achievement then of ten seats was a disaster. For Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, a meagre success was enough. He had spent four weeks contemplating the most ignominious defeat for his party in Scotland.

Mr Lang, who held his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale seat against the odds, said that the Tories had profited from their concentration on the perils of constitutional change, whether devolution or independence. A quarter of Scots who voted had under-

stood that both options would lead to the end of the union.

He did not rule out a referendum on constitutional change, but any change would have to be based on Scotland remaining in the union. "I am enormously pleased about the political message put across by the people of Scotland. They made it clear that they don't accept the cause of nationalism."

The nationalists will meet today in Perth to discuss tactics for the district elections on May 7. They have not ruled out civil disobedience. Mr Salmond said: "I don't want to pre-empt any other strategy before taking it to the national executive committee. But the one thing that is clear here is that this election has been the second best performance in the SNP's history, but our share of the vote translates into a few seats and that represents deep frustration, anger, disappointment and despair."



Sealed with a kiss: Ian Lang, Scottish secretary and winner in his Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency, being congratulated by his daughter Venetia as the result was announced yesterday

All Greens lose their deposits

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE election was calamitous for the Green party, which saw its share of the vote drop to 1.3 per cent, lower than in 1987 when environmental concern had not become established as a mainstream political issue.

The £450,000 the party spent on promoting 254 candidates proved futile: all lost their deposits. The Greens' highest poll was 2,005 for Sue Atkinson in Stroud, Gloucestershire, their local government stronghold, and their largest percentage was 3.75 for Chris Ashby in Islington North, London.

The party's 15 per cent share of the vote in the 1989 European elections now seems to have been very much a fluke. It appears to be marginalised beyond recovery. The party was squeezed by two factors: tactical voting for and against the government, and the disappearance of the environment as an issue on the doorstep. "We are very disappointed," Sara Parkin, chairman of the party's executive, said last night.

Northern Ireland

Tactical voting by Protestants helps oust Adams

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE cause of militant republicanism has suffered a big setback with the defeat of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president in West Belfast.

The seat was taken at the third attempt by Joe Hendron, of the SDLP, who said that his victory represented a rejection of the violence of the paramilitary groups. "We will

not put guns in their hands," Dr Hendron said during his victory speech at Belfast city hall. "We will not encourage them to join paramilitary organisations like UVF, UDA and Provisional IRA. I want to work for peace, my party wants to work for peace and I acknowledge all of those magnificent people of West Belfast of both communities who have supported me..."

Dr Hendron managed to overturn Mr Adams's 2,221 majority by increasing his own vote by nearly 3,000, achieving a majority of just 589 votes. It was clear that the decisive factor was unexpected tactical voting by members of the minority Protestant community on Shankill Road who opted for Dr Hendron to help to remove Mr Adams. Fred Cobain, their own Unionist candidate, a former Belfast lord mayor, polled almost exactly 3,000 fewer than his predecessor in 1987.

The fact that Dr Hendron was able to bring out the Protestant vote undercuts to some extent the long-term significance of Mr Adams's defeat. As Sinn Féin argued yesterday, there seemed little evidence that republican voters had turned away from Sinn Féin, an eventuality that would have been a far more damaging commentary on their recent record and indeed their future prospects, than the decision by some Protestants to vote tactically against them. Mr Adams's vote, at 16,826, dropped by only 36, allowing the party to say that it retained a clear majority for its pro-IRA position among the constituency's overwhelmingly Roman Catholic community.

Notwithstanding the details, however, even Sinn Féin was prepared to admit that the defeat will hurt it on the international stage, in terms of party morale and in its ability to pursue a parallel political track to the IRA campaign.

Richard McCauley, the party's main spokesman in Northern Ireland, summed it up: "It would be foolish to say this is not a blow — of course it is. I don't think it is possible at this stage to estimate the likely long-term damage. My own view is that it will turn out not to be the damaging or disastrous blow that some sections of the media and the British government would like, simply because we know the Sinn Féin vote in West Belfast is in a position of absolute supremacy over the SDLP." He added that Dr Hendron had merely "borrowed" the seat for a while and that Sinn Féin would seize it back at the first opportunity.

Bookies give odds on future

By LOUISE HIDALGO

BOOKMAKERS opened accounts yesterday on the outcome of the next election, undeterred by the losses some recorded after a last-minute surge in polling day betting had brought the Conservatives' odds on winning the election tumbling to 6-5.

Punters across the country were tallying their gains and losses after one of the most feverish finishes in political betting history. A record £250,000 was taken in 12 hours.

In Brighton, a restaurateur faced a loss of £18,000, wagered on a Labour win, while a man from London was celebrating the largest recorded win, of £75,000, after placing £20,000 on the Conservatives to gain an overall majority at odds of 11-4 against Graham Sharpe of William Hill said: "If there is a lesson to learn from this election, it is not to pay too much attention to the opinion polls when placing bets."

Sunderland South overcame odds of 50-1 to emerge as champion of the constituency race to announce the first results, ousting the three-time holder of the title, Torbay. Only one £1 bet had been placed on the winner.

John Major's tenure at Number 10 looked doubly secure as William Hill announced even money on his remaining there until the turn of the century.

The favourite to lead the Labour party into the next electoral battle was John Smith, the shadow chancellor. The odds on Neil Kinnock's fighting his third election as leader were 3-1.

The craziest bet, bookmakers said, was the £11,000 placed by a punter in Southend on Glenda Jackson, the odds-on favourite to take the London seat of Hampstead and Highgate. His winnings were £325.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS
HOLIDAYS



Among the new intake striving to bring balance to parliament: Liz Lynne (Liberal Democrat), Judith Chaplin (Conservative), Anne Campbell (Labour) and Bridget Prentice (Labour)

Far outweighed, but ...

More women than ever in Commons

BY ALISON ROBERTS

THERE will be more women at Westminster than ever before when the House of Commons returns this month. They will total 59, 16 more than at the end of the last parliament. There will also be at least one woman in John Major's new cabinet.

Parliament will contain 36 women Labour MPs, 20 Tories, two Liberal Democrats, and Margaret Ewing as parliamentary leader of the SNP. But the House is still a long way from being representative. Despite John Major's endorsement of Opportunity 2000, the initiative to give women a higher profile in parliament and the professions, only six female candidates were chosen to contest the 56 safe seats vacated by retiring Tory MPs. All six had comfortable majorities.

Judith Chaplin, who has already climbed the political ladder, took over from Sir Michael McNair-Wilson in Newbury with a majority of

over 12,000. Mrs Chaplin is tipped to become the first female Chancellor, and was special adviser to both Nigel Lawson and John Major at the Treasury. She went on to advise Mr Major at No 10 and he is known to think highly of her.

The Liberal Democrats had most women candidates. Liz Lynne takes over from Sir Cyril Smith in Rochdale. An actress and speech consultant who has been known to give Paddy Ashdown last-minute advice on technique, she has had a part in *The Mousetrap* and appeared in a BBC television play.

She will be joined by Glenda Jackson, an actress whose name always ensured a high-profile campaign. Thirty years into her career, the daughter of a Birkenhead bricklayer has now landed a part at Westminster. Her victory for Labour in Hampstead and Highgate was never certain. Another new-

comer is Anne Campbell, a statistician at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, who won Tory Cambridge for Labour with a majority of 580.

Front runners for a cabinet post include the Treasury minister, Gillian Shephard (Norfolk SW), the health minister, Virginia Bottomley (Surrey SW), and the Home Office minister, Angela Rumbold, who held Mitcham and Morden.

The chances of Dame Janet Fookes becoming the first woman Speaker may have been set back by the big swing to Labour in Plymouth Drake. Parties have traditionally avoided Speakers representing marginal seats.

Two Tory husbands and wife teams, Peter and Virginia Bottomley and Nicholas and Ann Winterton, have been joined by Gordon and Bridget Prentice, who gained Fendle and Lewisham East respectively for Labour.

Distraught world of the defeated

One moment assisted by an army of civil servants. Next moment nothing. Susan Crosland on a sudden trauma.

Defeated politicians are in a delicate condition and will be for months to come. Rejection is a cruel experience. (Those who have been unwillingly divorced will tell you it is worse than the death of the loved one.)

With the next election five years away, a whole generation of decent and clever men and women wake to the stark reality of devoting nearly two decades of their lifetime to the frustrations of the party in opposition.

For those of a certain age, there will be no more opportunity after the one they have just missed. True, once you are on the topmost rung in politics you can go on and on (though not evermore as the redoubtable Margaret Thatcher discovered). But it is a different story when you are out of government and must make a fresh launch from the ground. Then the tick of the clock has a sinister melancholy.

The defeated wake to discover they are drained of energy — which means they are severely depressed physically, mentally, emotionally. During the drawn-out campaign, politicians were charging around endlessly,

working hours which would land most of us in hospital. Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, frantically trying to hold his marginal seat, was said to be getting only three hours' sleep a night. This is only possible when nature's magic hormone surges during the other 21 hours.

For today's winners the adrenaline will keep surging, positively whizzing about when they return to Westminster and ministerial office. Whether this hyperactive excitability, like children at a birthday party, is suited to making instant long-term decisions is another story. My point is they feel great. The losers feel dreadful in every possible way.

I married Tony Crosland a few months before Labour came into government in 1964. He had been foreign secretary for just ten months when a cerebral haemorrhage killed him in 1977. During those 13 years, my only experience of electoral

defeat was when Ted Heath and the Tories, against expectation, won in 1970. So I can speak only for the fall from office, not for the failure to attain it in the first place.

In Grimsby town hall that night, while the Labour candidate's vote piled up, the word spread that in the rest of the country the Tories were pulling ahead. After Tony's victory speech of thanks to his supporters, we went back with friends to watch the other results come in on the television screen, and after a while I went over and sat on the arm of his chair as, mesmerised, he watched the evidence that Labour was out. When the alarm went off in our bedroom a few hours later, he remained dead asleep. I looked at him lying face down, one arm flung out.

Because he was stoical and (mostly) good-humoured, I did not fully grasp what a hell of an adjustment he had to make. One moment assisted by an army of civil servants (and do not underestimate the practical and psychological importance of the car and driver), the next moment nothing. When I bumped into a psychiatrist friend after Labour's defeat, he asked: "How's Tony taking it?" "He's begun a new book on socialism today. He's fine," I said cheerfully. The man looked at me with puzzlement: "I don't think you realise," he said, "how long internal suffering continues after that kind of unexpected defeat. It's like a sudden bereavement."

A few of the defeated are the exception to the above. They are the Labour MPs now preparing for the end of Neil Kinnock's leadership. Labour does these things with a dignity brutally denied Margaret Thatcher. None the less when those Labour MPs who could be the new leader or one of his lieutenants saw their party falling in the voting booth, the magic hormone surged ahead for the leadership struggle ahead. They alone among the defeated are not drained of energy today.

Norma gets back to the ironing

BY LIN JENKINS

WITH a glass of champagne in her hand, Norma Major toasted her husband's victory and the success of her own small wager on the election outcome.

Choosing to leave her husband to the euphoria in London and the task of preparing for government, she took his place in the constituency and joined celebrations at the Huntingdon Conservative headquarters. Reassuring her son James, aged 17, that he would not get into trouble for joining her in a glass since the party was private, she spoke of her enjoyment of the hectic weeks of campaigning and the yearning now to return to the mundane demands of running the family home.

She said: "I am going to do the shopping, washing and ironing — all the naff things that need to be done. I need to get my life sorted out a bit. Things have just got a bit out of hand in the last three weeks — well not just the last three weeks, the last 16 months really."

With the uncertainty over and the future at Number 10 assured, Mrs Major felt sure that their family life would settle into a routine. "I think it will be a bit easier now. We can really settle in. It's not going to change the way we live. We will still be coming home here. This is still our home."

Mrs Major said that she had never doubted that her husband would return to power and disclosed that she had put a bet on a Tory victory. She declined to reveal the size of the stake.

The weeks in the limelight at her husband's side had been stimulating, but the high profile of a party leader's wife was not a role she relished, nor intended to embrace fully. "I'm pretty tired," she admitted as the photographers gathered to record her watching the final results trickling through on the television. "I thought I'd finished with photo calls. I think we deserve a break from it — if not deserve, we need one."

Mrs Major's decision to return with James and their daughter Elizabeth, aged 20, to their home in Great Stukeley reflects her wish to keep in the background. "I've come home today. There is nothing I can usefully do in London. I don't think John will come home tonight, but I don't know, to be honest," she said.

The lack of sleep was weighing on her after all the excitement. "It was quite weird walking into central office at five in the morning with bright lights everywhere and so many people, but it's been wonderful."

Her ambition yesterday was to have an early night.

Foreign reaction

Kohl leads the way in congratulating Major

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CONSERVATIVE politicians in Europe wasted no time yesterday in welcoming John Major's victory in the hope that his success might be repeated back home.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor who is still reeling from regional election setbacks, sent a particularly warm telegram addressed to "Dear John". Referring to the prime minister with the familiar "du" form, normally reserved for close friends, Herr Kohl drew comfort from the fact that "the British people have entrusted you and your party with a further five years of leadership at a time of so many uncertainties on the international level and in the face of the challenges of the world economy".

The warmth of the message, which finished with good wishes for "your dear wife", contrasted starkly with the polite but more formal messages which the chancellor used to send Mrs Thatcher when she was prime minister. Carl Bildt, the Swedish prime minister, was gleeful about the Tories' victory. He said: "The failure for Labour confirms the picture of a deepening crisis for the social democrats and socialists in Western Europe which we have also seen in the recent weeks' elections in France

and Germany." The French watched John Major's election coup with detachment yesterday. François Mitterrand, the French president, whose party has to face the electorate next year, only managed a telegram formally congratulating Mr Major.

Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris and leader of the conservative Rally for the Republic party, who is usually enthusiastic in his support for the Tories, failed to release a statement.

Jacques Delors, the European Commission president who is not normally noted for his warmth to Conservatives, sent Mr Major a congratulatory telegram.

Chabaz Herzag, the Israeli president, burdened by a proportional representation electoral system, was in no doubt about the lessons from Mr Major's victory. "It takes about 45 days in Britain for elections to be held and a government to be formed, while Israel enters into election turmoil for at least half a year," he said.

The Japanese were not overly concerned about the outcome, having decided that neither party would be able to do much to make dramatic economic policy changes. But Japanese financiers and businessmen yesterday expressed

quiet relief at the Conservative victory. One executive from a trading company with considerable interests in the United Kingdom said: "We never knew very much about Mr Kinnock, you see, but I suppose now we can be sure that economic policies are unlikely to change." Japan's enduring love affair with Mrs Thatcher has bred a fondness for the Conservative party.

Mr Major's victory is likely to be broadly welcomed in the Middle East, where he is best remembered for sending British troops into action to liberate Kuwait last year. His success will come as a reassurance to Britain's traditional allies in the region, in particular the Gulf States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

In its best traditions of adhering to the truth, Iraq gloated at Mr Major's "downfall" yesterday. "The Conservative defeat has been confirmed and John Major will have to relinquish the premiership to his opponent Neil Kinnock," Iraq's defence newspaper, *al-Qadisiyah*, declared. "The Conservative defeat pulls the curtain on a pillar of the vicious aggression against Iraq." The paper was clearly so keen to condemn Mr Major that it wrote the report before the polls closed.

Bush welcomes 'wonderful' Tory victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush hailed his friend John Major's general election victory as "substantial" and "wonderful" as a general relief pervaded Republican circles.

Officials said they were pleased not only that the administration's relationship with British Conservative governments over the past 11 years would continue, but that a political precedent had not been set for November's

presidential election. "There's a general sense that the Anglo-Saxon democracies tend to track each other," a senior member of the Bush-Quayle re-election campaign said. A right-wing British government had staved off a challenge from the left. "This is a good omen."

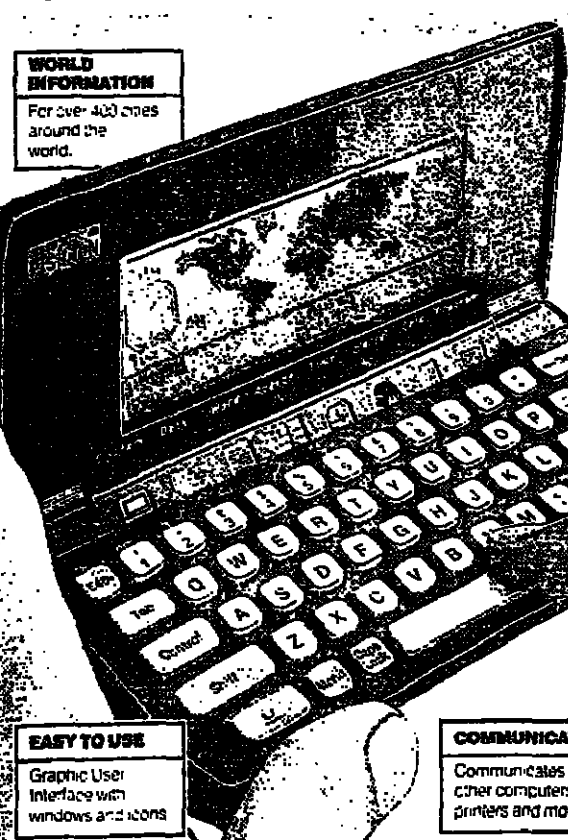
Aides to Bill Clinton, front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, had hoped for a symbolic meeting between their candidate and a newly installed

Neil Kinnock in Downing Street this summer.

Mr Bush worked closely with Mr Major during the Gulf war and its aftermath. Their friendship was cemented when the Majors visited the Bushes last summer. The president grew confident of Mr Major's support in international matters and one of their first joint acts after the British election may be the delivery of a stern official warning to Iraq to cease attacks on the Kurds north of the 36th parallel.

With the parliamentary election over, White House officials betrayed more of the apprehension they had felt about a Labour government. "Labour's position had evolved in recent years, and it was not quite as frightening as it would have been a few years ago," said one. "However, clearly we are most comfortable with the Conservatives, whose positions on many things are better known to us and more in line with what the US administration has espoused."

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Rapist trapped by kitchen footprint jailed for 14 years

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A RAPIST wearing only goal-keeper's gloves who was trapped by a bare footprint he left on the tiled kitchen floor of his victim's house was jailed for 14 years yesterday.

Stephen Tomkinson, aged 32, was appearing for sentence at Bristol crown court after being convicted two weeks ago on two counts of raping a businesswoman. He was trapped by forensic experts after at first denying entering the house.

Mr Justice French, who said the sentence was the least he could impose, told Tomkinson that he not only violated his victim but also the safety of her home where he lay in wait in her bedroom. He also used the "disasteful" defence that she had consented to his advances.

The case had been adjourned for psychiatric reports. Tomkinson, a former amateur goalkeeper, had been living in a secure unit at Broadmoor hospital, Berkshire, since last December. Michael Hubbard, for the defence, had said last month

that reports indicated that his client was a danger to himself and others.

Yesterday, Mr Hubbard said there were few things to say in mitigation. But no weapon was involved and the victim was not subjected to further sexual indignity after the rapes. Tomkinson, he added, was not a candidate for a hospital order. His nine previous convictions did not include rape or serious assaults.

Tomkinson, a van driver and divorced father of four children, from Bishopston, Bristol, had tracked his victim and twice indecently exposed himself to her near her home in the months before the rape. The married woman, aged 46, who now lives in London, was confronted in her bedroom. Tomkinson twisted her bathrobe cord around her neck.

Police asked a Cotswold painter, who has not been named, for his help and the victim co-operated in providing details for the artist whose drawing of the attacker provided a likeness that detectives were later to describe as "amazing".

A week later a man noticed Tomkinson acting suspiciously near two women on the Downs, Bristol, and recognised him from the artist's impression.

Tomkinson was taken to a police station where he agreed to give an inked impression of his left foot and was released. But he was arrested days later when experts found it a perfect match for the bare left footprint found in the kitchen.

Footprint evidence is rare in British criminal cases, though it is widespread in countries with large barefoot populations. Skin ridge impressions provide the tell-tale evidence, as soles, toes, fingerprints and palm prints have the same identifying characteristics.

Scenes of crime officers "lifted" the attacker's prints from scores of marks on the kitchen floor and eliminated the victim's prints and those of her husband and family. Initially the print was identified by two civilian assistants, Tamsin Allan, aged 22, and Louise Hillier, aged 21, who screened more than 100 footprints taken from suspects.

The final check was carried out by Ken Cook, a police fingerprint expert. He said: "Normally 16 characteristics in sequence are sufficient to provide a match. In this case I stopped counting at 150. I have done hundreds of thousands of fingerprints but this was my first footprint."



Vital image: artist's impression of the rapist

Bard's rural idyll found wanting

By CRAIG SETON

SHAKESPEARE may turn in his grave. Countryside around his birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, is not the rural idyll that tourism promoters suggest.

A survey of potential sites for development on the town's borders indicates that there is little to preserve from new housing. It claims that there is a marked absence of woodland, few plants of note and a paucity of wildlife. Kingfishers and other birdlife that haunted the banks of the Avon in the Bard's day are, it seems, mostly gone.

The study by landscape and wildlife consultants of about 750 acres of fields and 28 miles of hedgerows and boundary land was ordered by Stratford-upon-Avon district council to ensure that any valuable sites are spared development.

Pamela Copson, keeper of biology at the Warwickshire Museum, who helped in the survey, said yesterday that she had found the land impoverished for wildlife, and largely used for intensive arable farming and nondescript grassland that created few opportuni-

ties for plants and animals to flourish. Moreover, gardeners on the town boundary had created a neat, but artificial, environment.

The idyllic image of Shakespeare country was "not matched by reality", Mrs Copson said. There were few brooks and the only ponds were dry or filled with rubble. Although there was evidence of foxes and rabbits, no badger sets could be found and there was a shortage of places for songbirds to nest and feed. With the exception of a couple of haymeadows, there was little to get excited about.

Mrs Copson said that there were grants to enable farmers to return land to a more natural state if it was not required for agriculture, but supervised building developments with landscaping might offer a better environment for wildlife than now existed.

She said: "What we want is a nice skin around the edge of Stratford to make it attractive to approach from any direction and where residents can walk and look at the wildlife."

Lightning strike cuts BBC TV news

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LIGHTNING strike by 170 picture editors disrupted the *One O'Clock News* on BBC1 yesterday. The technicians walked out at noon on a 24-hour stoppage but returned at 3pm to show their "commitment to public service broadcasting" during the election.

The normal 30-minute bulletin was cut to ten minutes. "There was total confusion," according to Vincent Feiner, BBC national organiser of Bectu, the broadcasting union. "They just didn't know what to do."

Ninety-five per cent of the news and current affairs picture editors had voted to walk out in support of their film editor colleagues, who also launched a 24-hour stoppage yesterday to protest at widespread redundancies.

A one-day blackout of all BBC radio and television programmes as "a vote of no confidence" in BBC senior management has been called by Bectu for May 15.

Drivers kill 1 m animals a year

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a million wild animals and birds are probably killed annually in road accidents, a toll that is likely to rise as traffic becomes heavier and faster, according to the Surrey Wildlife Trust.

The trust's estimate, thought to be the first of its kind, is based on a five-year study by a trust member, James Baker. During his 60 mile round trip to and from work on main roads in Surrey, he counted 1,304 animals and birds killed from 1987 to the end of last year.

The death toll, on the journey through habitats from oak woodland, meadows and marshland to urban fringe, rose steadily from 174 in 1987 to 306 in 1990 and 383 last year. The figures for last year included 127 rabbits, the most frequent victims, 45 foxes, 29 woodpigeons, 24 pheasants, 22 grey squirrels, 20 hedgehogs, 12 rats, 12 badgers and 11 magpies, and smaller numbers of roe deer, stoat, blackbird and tawny owl. He also counted 13 cats.

The trust has created a mathematical model based on the statistics to project figures for annual deaths on A-roads. For Surrey the total is 5,270; for Britain as a whole 998,000. The figures would be significantly higher if deaths on motorways and unclassified roads were included.

Roger Ramage, the Surrey Wildlife Trust's press officer, said: "We accept that the basic figures have been obtained by one person concentrating on driving and that over the winter months the return journey was made in darkness. The results probably, therefore, give an underestimate of actual animal mortality. We would like to see this sort of survey repeated all over the country."

The transport department confirmed that no national survey of animal road deaths had been undertaken.

ANIMAL AND BIRD ROAD DEATHS

On one 30-mile route through Surrey	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Domestic/feral cat	12	12	8	11	13
Grey squirrel	20	43	14	34	22
Rabbit	24	49	54	70	127
Badger	6	11	4	8	12
Pheasant	11	17	8	28	24
Fox	33	42	97	53	45
Hedgehog	21	12	8	11	20
Blackbird	2	7	7	6	7
Wood pigeon	7	18	18	17	29
Stoat	1	1	1	1	2
Roe deer	3	3	5	4	3
Magpie	8	8	3	12	11
Dog	1	1	2	2	3
Rei	-	9	1	5	12

Civil War armour back in front line

By ALISON ROBERTS

THE Civil War exhibition sponsored by *The Times* was opened yesterday by Lord Hotham, a descendant of Sir John Hotham who barred Charles I from entering Hull in 1642 and began the manoeuvres that preceded hostilities. Lord Hotham defended his ancestor, saying that Sir John had been a supporter of the monarchy, but like many noblemen had not liked King Charles.

"We are lucky to have an organisation like the Royal Armoury to ensure that those arms are preserved," he said. "We owe gratitude to the organisers and the sponsors for helping put on such an exhibition."

The exhibition, which will travel to four other sites, displays arms and armour, ranging from two of the

Stuart royal armours to ordinary footsoldier's equipment. There is also a display of the images and myths surrounding the Cavalier and the Roundhead, stereotypes used to inspire the two sides to fight. Pistols, coats, swords and suits of armour are set next to portraits and war illustrations.

The exhibition is divided into six sections. The first introduces the King at the time of his rule without Parliament. The second, entitled *A Nation Divided*, explains the emergence of the two sides. The next three sections are displays of the armour and weapons and the final part of the exhibition deals with the King's execution in 1649.

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Death at New Manor Farm

Scientists examine
copse shotgun trap

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office scientists yesterday began testing a gun and a remote control system found close to the body of Peter Jowett, the wealthy Wiltshire farmer discovered shot in the back in a copse near Salisbury.

A shotgun, a battery-operated aiming device and an electrical wire leading away were discovered built into a wooden box 2ft by 18in, hidden in undergrowth 20 yards

from the body. Mr Jowett was reported missing on Wednesday night when staff at his 900-acre New Manor Farm arrived to relieve him from lambing duties. Police found his car on the A30 and then the body.

Last night, police said that they were still treating the investigation as a murder enquiry but it was possible that Mr Jowett died accidentally. The result of ballistic tests

next week will show whether this could have happened. One theory is that he was setting up a system to protect his land from foxes.

The shotgun device, which could be similar to an old fashioned method for scaring foxes away from pheasant pens, was about 2ft off the ground. The spot was an odd one for an anti-pest system, as no pheasants are kept near by and it is close to a main road. If the gun was intended to kill Mr Jowett, police will have to work out how it was sighted in the wood at night.

There was a 20-yard trail of blood from the device to the body. It seems that Mr Jowett was shot at close range and staggered away. A further post-mortem examination of his body was made yesterday because a pathologist found two entry wounds but only one bullet. Mr Jowett may have been hit at close range by a bullet and debris from the bullet's charge.

Police have found no evidence to substantiate suggestions that Mr Jowett was a "ladies man" and could have been murdered out of jealousy.

They talked to Lavinia Jowett, his widow, yesterday. She and her children are staying with relatives rather than at the farmhouse.

Rural calm broken

WINTERSLOW, home village of Peter Jowett, is somewhere "no one ever came unless they were lost or curious", according to Reginald Titt, chairman of the parish council. "We don't often see a policeman, we don't often need one," he said, reflecting on normal times in the Wiltshire village, now at the centre of a murder enquiry (Stewart Tandler writes).

A mile away, by the A30, at a spot known locally as Pickpocket, from the stage-coach days, policemen were combing undergrowth for clues to the death of Mr Jowett.

Elderly gardeners potted in the village, based on four hamlets on a 500ft ridge that is level with the top of the spire of Salisbury cathedral,

six miles away. Many roofs are thatched and aubrietia tumbles from rockeries. Mr Titt said with some pride that no road in the village is classified above C-grade.

Two public houses and two churches serve a community of 2,000, many of whom work in Salisbury and the Solent area. Mr Titt said that the death had shocked villagers. The Jowetts were respected, and had always been co-operative in parish affairs, such as rights of way.

On the parish notice board, a notice for an amateur theatre production featured in the breeze. The play to be performed is *Murder for the Asking*. Whether that can be applied to Mr Jowett's death remains to be seen.



Spanish practice: Maria del Mar Berlanga, Spain's top woman flamenco dancer, and the guitarist Juan Martin rehearsing for tonight's performance by the Duende Flamenco Dance Company at the Barbican centre, London. The group, aged 17 to 23, are considered to be the cream of Spain's flamenco dancers

Irishmen
face trial
for army
murder

Two Irishmen, cleared in The Netherlands last summer of killing two Australians whom they mistook for Britons, are to be tried in Germany for the murder of a British army major in Dortmund nearly two years ago (Ian Murray writes from Bonn).

They have been held in prison in Bonn since last July, when they were extradited from The Netherlands for questioning about the activities of a Provisional IRA unit operating in Europe in 1990.

The state prosecutor, Alexander von Stahl, said yesterday that the two men, John Edward Hick, aged 31, and Paul Michael Hughes, aged 28, were to be tried in Düsseldorf for murdering Major Michael Dillon-Lee in June, 1990, and for an attempt to blow up a hut in which 30 soldiers were sleeping at the British army barracks at Langenhagen in May, 1990.

Donna Maguire, also extradited after being cleared of killing the Australians in Roermond, is still in prison in Bonn while enquiries continue.

NUT calls for
test boycott

Teachers are to be asked to boycott national curriculum tests for seven and 14-year-olds in 1993. Members of the National Union of Teachers will ask their annual conference to call a ballot of those due to be involved with the tests if the government does not agree to drop them.

The backers of the motion believe that the conference, which begins next week in Blackpool, has come too late to stop the present round of assessment. Primary schools will start setting "assessment tasks" for six and seven-year-olds at the end of this month.

£5m settlement

A sportsman who lost part of one leg and injured the other in a factory accident has won a structured settlement to provide an income for life. She will have received £4.9 million if she lives to be 78, the High Court in Belfast was told. Paula McCloskey, aged 26, from Belfast, became entangled in a mincing machine in 1990. She had played for the Northern Ireland women's soccer team.

Train derailed

Sixty passengers were led to safety yesterday after a train was derailed between Poplar and Canary Wharf on the Docklands Light Railway in London. No other train was involved in the incident at West India Quay station and there were no injuries. The train was later lifted from the track but services on the line were disrupted. The accident is being investigated.

Blackmail case

Kevin Everitt, aged 38, was jailed for two and a half years at the Old Bailey yesterday for blackmailing dealers in indecent magazines for sums up to £1,000. Everitt, of Newquay, Cornwall, claimed that he launched a "crusade" against pornography.

Lovers are
jailed for
death plot

A RICH divorcee who plotted to have her former lover killed when he demanded half her property was jailed for ten years yesterday.

June Houseley's new lover, Mike Kibble, who helped to hire a hitman for £9,500 to kill Christopher Cleary, aged 63, was jailed for eight years.

A Nottingham crown court jury had found Houseley, aged 52, owner of an old people's home in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, and Kibble, aged 48, an accountant of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, guilty of conspiracy to murder Mr Justice Roushier told them: "Whatever the hassle Cleary may have given you, there is no excuse to murder the man in cold blood."

George Jackson, aged 43, formerly of Quadring, Lincolnshire, was acquitted of the same charge. Mark Owens, aged 30, of Atleborough, Nuneaton, has admitted it, and is to be sentenced on Monday.

The court was told that Cleary had refused to leave a £150,000 house he shared with Houseley, claiming a half right to it and her £70,000 villa in Spain. When legal action to ban him from the house failed, Houseley and Kibble had sought a man to shoot him. It was alleged that Owens, a business associate of Kibble, had contacted Mr Jackson, who had agreed to arrange a killing.

Yeoman accused of
assault at Tower

A YEOMAN attacked a guard during a social evening at the Tower of London, Southwark crown court was told yesterday. Derrick Coyle, a Yorkshireman, felled Sgt David Ward, a Lancastrian serving with the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, with a flurry of blows in a "War of the Roses", it was alleged.

Coyle, aged 47, denies unlawfully wounding Sgt Ward, aged 27, in October last year, and an alternative charge of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Henry Cleaver, for the prosecution, said that Sgt Ward's regiment was on a 48-hour tour of duty at the tower. Sgt Ward and other members of his regiment went to a "Cockney Evening" in the club. Coyle, his wife, grown-up son and daughter also attended the function and spoke to Sgt Ward.

He said: "Sgt Ward remembered being approached by the defendant and his family. The next thing he remembers was waking up in the casualty department of St Bartholomew's Hospital with injuries to his head and face."

But Mr Cleaver said that a lieutenant in the Guards regiment had seen the sergeant leave at about 2am with Coyle and his son. The lieutenant saw Coyle punch Sgt Ward in the face three times and Sgt Ward fell to

the ground. The officer ordered Coyle home, but he protested he wished to give his version of events. Mrs Coyle helped the sergeant to a toilet, but Coyle pulled him out and punched him in the face, Mr Cleaver said.

The Guards officer and two guardsmen dragged Coyle from the sergeant, said Mr Cleaver. Sgt Ward admitted in court that he had been drinking and said he remembered little of the evening. The last thing he remembered was a "friendly" conversation with Coyle, who told the guardsman he had served with the Green Howards regiment. He denied he became aggressive in drink but as a result of the incident he had been disciplined for acting in a manner unbecoming a sergeant.

Michael Cousens, for the defence, claimed that Sgt Ward had picked on his client's son. Mr Cousens alleged that Ward had been warned about his language and told to apologise to Coyle's son.

The drunken sergeant had taken a swing at Coyle's son after the party, the Beefeater had intervened and the soldier had fallen on cobblestones, striking his head, Mr Cousens alleged.

The trial continues on Monday.

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Amphetamines bound for Britain

English police find Dordogne drug base

BY DAVID YOUNG

DETECTIVES are hunting an Englishman who owns a farm in the Dordogne area of France which has been used as a drug-making "factory" to produce amphetamines destined for southeast England.

Police believe that their success in uncovering illegal drug-production centres in Britain is forcing producers and dealers to set up bases in Europe.

In the latest operation, detectives from the Number Six regional crime squad covering Sussex, Kent, Surrey and Hampshire led French police to the remote farmhouse in the village of Meneplet. The farmhouse was unoccupied at the time of the raid but officers discovered a complete set of equipment and chemicals to produce amphetamines. Glassware, piping and more than 100 kilograms of "precursor" chemicals such as caustic soda had recently been used to produce the drug, although no drugs were found in the raid.

Belgian detectives, who had also been briefed by crime squad officers, yesterday raided a flat at Middlekerke where they found two bags containing 50 kilograms of amphetamine sulphate with an estimated value of £250,000. These bags were also destined for the south of England.

The raids, part of an operation codenamed "Face The Music", have led to a search for the owner of the farmhouse, a man from East Sussex. The equipment found in the Dordogne raid is being examined by French forensic scientists from Toulouse and fingerprint experts from Bordeaux.

A spokesman for the regional crime squad said: "A fully equipped drugs factory was discovered in France used to produce amphetamines for distribution throughout South-East England. Regional crime squad detectives have for some time felt that police pressure on British drug dealers in this country has forced them abroad to try other channels of production and distribution of amphetamines."

The crime squad officers had already found a "drug factory" in Spain. They led Spanish detectives to a villa at Calahonda on the Costa del Sol where £500,000 worth of amphetamine sulphate and a complete production line were found.

Three British citizens, two men and a woman all from Kent, were arrested and were charged by Spanish authorities with conspiracy to produce the drug. It was the first time such a factory aimed at smuggling the drug into the

UK had been found on the Continent.

Two men and a woman appeared in court yesterday after the seizure of cocaine and "crack" in south London with a street value estimated at £100,000.

Bobby Campbell, aged 28, a musician, of Brixton, and Neil Reid, aged 29, of Lewisham, are accused of possession of cocaine with intent to supply. Mr Campbell was also accused of possessing ammunition.

Lorraine Miller, aged 28, a secretary, of Mitcham, south London, is accused of conspiracy to supply cocaine, possession of ammunition and cannabis. Mr Campbell and Mr Reid were remanded in custody by Camberwell Green magistrates until April 16. Miss Miller was remanded on conditional bail until the same date.

Scotland Yard said that the charges were brought after the seizure of controlled drugs three days ago.



Pot for one: David Barker, an archaeologist, with a tiny teapot dating from about 1730, found during excavation of a development site in Stoke-on-Trent. Other ware and two kiln floors have been unearthed

Women shed new light on old image

BY PHILIP HOWARD
LITERARY EDITOR

WOMAN wailing because her man has left her is a cliché of western art. It is the basis of the blues and opera, of Cole Porter and a lot of tragedy. The poet Ruth Padel told the Classical Association conference in Oxford yesterday that the stereotype has deeper roots than we supposed.

Going back 2,500 years, she suggested that Euripides introduced the image into tragedy. He turned women bereft of their lovers into a dramatic image of human pain. But it tends to be men using women's pain to express their own.

Women are bringing their minds to bear on these old cultural stereotypes created by men. Christianne Sourvinou-Inwood of University College, Oxford, showed how Euripides made up bad women to get across revolutionary new truths about the war between the sexes. In that male dominated society of ancient Greece, certain things could be uttered by only a really bad woman.

Chatlines sued for £660,000

Trustees of the chatlines compensation fund are to sue eight former chatline operators to make good part of a £1 million shortfall in the money available to meet claims by people facing massive telephone bills because of abuse of their services.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Aldous gave the trustees leave to sue each company for its share of the £660,000 due in January when writs were issued. The plug was pulled on the chatlines by the watchdog Ofcom because most had failed to pay into the fund.

Father jailed

Almas Ahmad, aged 50, a Muslim of Wembley, north-west London, was jailed for life for stabbing to death his daughter Farah, aged 19, after she left home to live with her boy friend.

Arson death

Nick Cook, aged 16, died and his mother Marilyn, aged 39, is in hospital with serious burns after an arson attack on their home in Middleport, Staffordshire.

Hot and cold

The Common Cold Research Unit at Salisbury, closed two years ago after thousands of volunteers were paid to catch colds in a futile attempt to find a cure, has been burnt to the ground. The fire brigade spent more than eight hours at the scene and managed to use the incident for training.

Minister's wife to give evidence

BY KERRY GILL

THE wife of the Rev Morris McKenzie, the Church of Scotland minister at the centre of the Orkney child abuse allegations, is expected to give evidence to a reconvened session of the judicial enquiry next month.

Lord Clyde, chairman of the seven-month hearing, has offered Jan McKenzie the chance to describe the effect on her husband of allegations by children that he took part in sexual rituals. Mr McKenzie, aged 65, who suffers from a heart condition, has always denied the allegations and has not been charged with any offence.

Mrs McKenzie will make a spoken submission that will go unquestioned. The decision to allow her to address the enquiry, into the seizure by social workers of nine children from the island of South Ronaldsay in February 1991, comes after criticism that her husband had been given no chance to refute the allegations.

Mr McKenzie was told two months ago that he would not be required as a witness because any evidence he could offer would be irrelevant. That was because the enquiry's remit was confined to the actions of social workers, police and other child care professionals.

At the time, Mrs McKenzie spoke out on her husband's behalf, saying that his name had been blackened throughout the enquiry.

Short wrestles wily Karpov

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

NIGEL Short, the white knight of British chess and the highest ranked UK grandmaster in the history of the game, makes the opening moves of his greatest challenge today when his world championship semi-final begins against Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion.

The match, in Linares, Spain, is one of the concurrent semi-finals that will propel the ultimate winner towards a \$3 million (£1.7 million) challenge next year to the reigning world champion, Gary Kasparov. The second semi-final pits the Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman against the former Soviet player Artur Yusupov, now resident in Germany.

Each semi-final will be for the best of ten games, with a prize fund of 300,000 Swiss francs (£115,000) at stake in each match.

If the scores are level after ten games, qualifiers will be decided by quick-play chess, a method which has been designed by the World Chess Federation to

break all potential deadlocks.

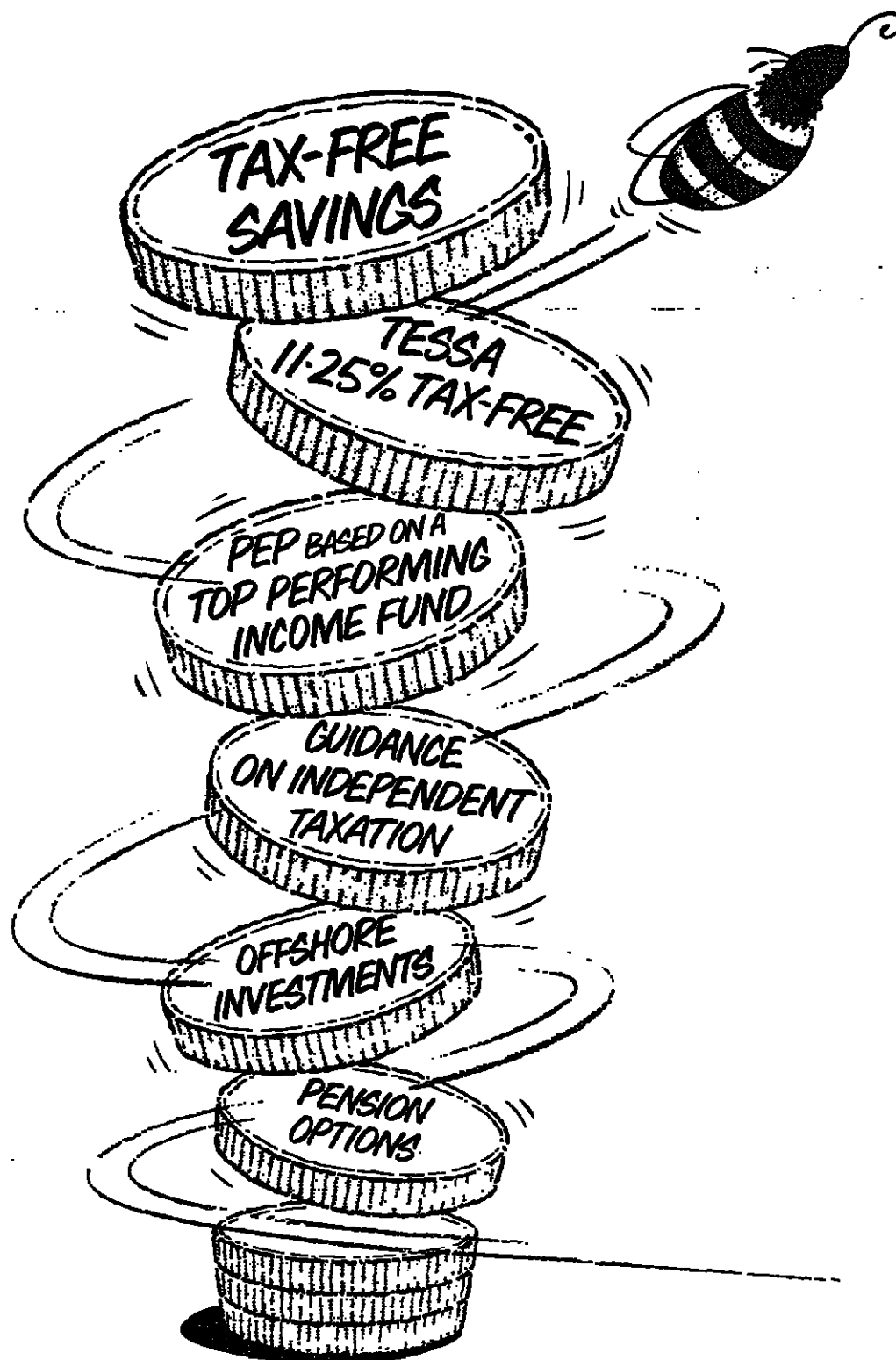
Nigel Short is well aware of the task that faces him. Karpov, world champion from 1975 to 1985, when he was overwhelmed by Gary Kasparov, has won more first prizes in international tournaments than anyone else. He has been described variously as a python inexorably squeezing the life out of his victims and as a poisonous spider gradually spinning a deadly web.

Nevertheless, Short has beaten Karpov in the past and is confident that he can win again. He has achieved his best ranking, fourth in the world, and has developed an attacking style that may yet cut through the subtleties of his opponent.

Short is particularly deadly with the white pieces and if he can hold off the Russian's pressure when defending with black, he has an outstanding chance of qualifying for the final.

Chess, Saturday Review, page 45

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Yugoslav army chiefs threaten full-scale military intervention

Embattled Bosnia pleads for help

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina yesterday made a dramatic appeal to the world to "prevent aggression against our peaceful country". Mr Izetbegovic spoke an hour after a renewed round of shelling had shaken the Bosnian capital and after Yugoslav army chiefs had threatened full-scale military intervention.

Addressing his appeal to the European Community, the United Nations Security Council and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Mr Izetbegovic claimed that 3,000 men, women and children had been besieged in Zvornik and had been given an ultimatum

to give up their arms. "They have no weapons," said a grim-looking Mr Izetbegovic. Serb territorial defence units had surrounded the Gornji Sepak part of the town where these people have taken refuge. The Yugoslav army was watching without doing anything to prevent it, he said. The predominantly Muslim town fell to a Serb militia unit on Thursday.

Yesterday afternoon José María Mendiluce, the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees who had just returned from the area, said he had seen "several thousand terrified people without food or shelter in a hamlet com-

prising only a few houses". The hamlet was called Lijča. Other officials said they had seen ten to 15 bodies, including those of old people, being loaded on to trucks.

While Serb militias continued to fight in eastern Bosnia, Yugoslav army chiefs threatened to intervene. So far the Serb-dominated military had either claimed only to be separating warring factions or retaliating against attacks.

Bosnian air force chief, said: "If stolen military equipment is not returned and armed attacks on units and facilities do not cease... we will take full combat measures against objectives and formations which we think most threaten us." The air force has already mounted at least three bombing raids against Bosnian-Croat positions this week.

Yesterday afternoon José Cuelheiro, the Portuguese chairman of the EC-sponsored talks on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, returned to Sarajevo in an attempt to reopen negotiations and halt the slide to civil war. Professor Milorad Ekmečić, a leading Bosnian Serb historian and adviser to Radovan Karadžić, the republic's main Serb leader, said he expected the EC talks to resume. "But the war will go on. There will be 15 days of peace. 15 days of fighting... historically it has always been like this in Bosnia."

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy to Yugoslavia and architect of the UN peace plan for Croatia, is expected to arrive in Sarajevo today to consult senior peace-keeping officials. The UN peacekeeping force, which is based in the city, has no mandate to intervene in Bosnia.

Foreign recognition: Finland recognised Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state yesterday, a foreign ministry spokesman said. President Koivisto signed the notice. Czechoslovakia has also decided to recognise the republic as a sovereign state. A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday the decision was based on an agreement with Hungary and Poland. Italy said yesterday that it planned to establish diplomatic relations soon with the republic. (Reuters)



Running for cover: A Serbian fighter trying to avoid sniper fire in an eastern suburb of Sarajevo yesterday as fighting continued in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Ukraine's admiral sets his sights on Black Sea fleet

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN SEVASTOPOL

UKRAINE'S newly appointed commander-in-chief of naval forces, Rear Admiral Boris Kozhin, said yesterday that he would continue to create "the necessary command structures" to take control of the entire Black Sea fleet based in the Crimean city of Sevastopol.

However, Admiral Kozhin confirmed that he had received instructions not to take charge of the navy until a political agreement over the fleet's future had been agreed between Russia and Ukraine. He gave no date for the final takeover of the fleet but said: "The process will be continued and developed. We will not stop because we have already made a political decision to form a Ukrainian navy based in Sevastopol."

Speaking at a press conference organised by Ukrainian officials, the admiral said that the commanders of many of the fleet's 300 ships were ready to break links with the Kremlin-backed Admiral Igor Kazantsov.

His comments emphasised the change in Ukraine's attitude over the fleet since last month. Previously President Kravchuk's government was willing to split political control of the fleet, but now the

Ukrainians seem determined to take full control and then decide what percentage, if any, will be handed to commonwealth forces.

Ukrainian and commonwealth commands would continue to negotiate with each other, the admiral said, to avoid a dangerous situation whereby rival Russian and Ukrainian flags would be raised on ships which were before December, part of the same fleet in the same naval forces. Black Sea fleet press officers at the conference

bombarded the admiral with questions implying that he was dishonest and immoral for taking the Ukrainian oath and accepting his job from President Kravchuk.

"Admiral Kazantsov made an admiral out of you; how can you look into his eyes? How many oaths can you take? You were grateful to Kazantsov, but you violated his orders," one said.

To most personnel from the Black Sea fleet the political row means little apart from insecurity over their future employment, giving an added headache to the difficulties of surviving on meagre military wages in a climate of spiralling inflation. Most said Captain Aleksandr Gushakov, were waiting for a "civilised" solution to the problem.

Support for Russia in the city appears to be stronger than it is in the navy itself, where almost every unit has refused to display the Russian ensign over their ships or buildings. Sevastopol is a naval base rooted in the Kremlin's military traditions and is deeply embedded in the national psyche, the results of its experiences at the hands of French, British and German besiegers in the past 150 years.

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Skinhead fuhrer dodges sanity test

A Polish trial is examining politics and madness, Roger Boyes writes

When is a politician certifiably mad? Or rather, when is he not? Those were some of the questions facing a team of psychiatrists yesterday as they met to examine Boleslaw Tejkowski, head of the Polish National party and a virulently anti-Semitic guru of skinheads in Poland.

Mr Tejkowski did not turn up at the Warsaw court house and claimed the psychiatrists — like Mr Walesa, the Pope and President Bush — were Jewish and part of a Zionist-Vatican-Bolshevik-German conspiracy. Instead he sent a phalanx of skinheads chanting "psychiatrists to the gas chamber". The examination was adjourned.

Now Mr Tejkowski will probably have to be detained and the tests conducted against his will. In the meantime, the psychiatrists, on the basis of Mr Tejkowski's writings, will have to devise a formula for testing the sanity of politicians. "Obviously you can believe in a political conspiracy," said psychiatrist Stanislaw Kuligowski, "but we have to determine whether that belief is socially harmful."

Mr Tejkowski, an ardent admirer of President Saddam Hussein, was initially charged with humiliating the Polish government, the Catholic church, the Pope and the Jewish and German minorities, as well as inciting conflict through his nationalistic appeals. During his original testimony, he admitted writing several leaflets accusing President Walesa of treason. The court adjourned the case until Mr Tejkowski had undergone psychiatric tests.

Last autumn, his party managed to gain only a half per cent of the vote in two out of 37 districts during general elections. Mr Tejkowski blamed the poor showing on the German computer "which was programmed to destroy all votes by the Nationalists".

But the real political significance of Mr Tejkowski is his control over about 6,000 skinheads in Poland. Recently his skinhead followers fought bloody battles with the police in Wrocław and shattered gravestones in the city's Jewish cemetery. They also attacked German citizens last month on the Polish-German border.

Mr Tejkowski recently said he believed the Polish government was preparing to allow German and Nato troops on to Polish soil. His reaction: "We will shoot."



Saddam: admired by Polish extremists

Belgium expels Russian envoys

Brussels: Belgium has ordered two diplomats and two officials of the commercial section at the Russian embassy here to leave the country within 24 hours (Tom Walker writes).

At the same time Bruno Bulthe, an investigating magistrate, has started interrogating 11 Belgians who allegedly supplied military technology to the former Soviet Union. Among those being questioned is the journalist Guido Tkindt, an aviation specialist for the Flemish *De Standaard*. An official in the Flemish regional government and several military personnel are understood also to be among the Belgians under suspicion.

Before the expulsion orders were served, police launched dawn raids on several homes in Brussels and surrounding Flanders in an operation codenamed "Glasnost".

Leader to quit

Rome: Arnaldo Forlani, the Italian Christian Democrat leader, says he will step down in the wake of the party's fall below 30 per cent of the vote in the parliamentary elections. But party officials indicated they would reject his resignation. (AP)

EC team leaves

Phnom Penh: A fact-finding mission from the European Community left Cambodia satisfied with the amount of aid the EC has promised and optimistic about the country's reconstruction. The EC has pledged £20.5 million in food and financial aid. (AFP)

Image polish

Paris: President Mitterrand, seeking to reimpose his authority after his Socialist party's reverses in the regional elections, is to go on television to discuss with journalists the constitutional changes needed to ratify the Maastricht treaty. (Reuters)

Help sought

Catania: The mayor of a village near Mount Etna in Sicily has asked the Italian air force to use bombs to slow the lava flow that is threatening it. The 10,900ft volcano, Europe's tallest and most active, has been erupting since December. (Reuters)

Detainees flee

Budapest: Twenty-six illegal immigrants broke out of a detention camp near here after spraying the unarmed guard with tear gas. Four Chinese and a Turk were recaptured, but the others, of different nationalities, were still at large. (Reuters)

Crime busting

Bonn: Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has written to the governments of Russia and Poland seeking co-operation with their undercover agents in the fight against drug trafficking and combating organisations such as the Mafia.

Stamps issued

Moscow: Independent Russia's first stamps are on sale in Moscow. Inscribed with *Rossiya* in Cyrillic letters and its Latin equivalent, *Rossija*, they commemorate the Albertville winter Olympics and the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Marshal to visit

Paris: Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, head of the Commonwealth of Independent States' armed forces, is to visit France for defence talks with Pierre Joxe, the defence minister. He will also inspect an air base in Dijon and naval facilities in Toulon. (AFP)

Nato offers skills born of Cold War to East's armies

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT AND TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

NATO military chiefs agreed yesterday to help train East European and former Soviet officers in the West, and to reorganise the armies of the former Warsaw Pact countries. They also raised the possibility of selling them Western arms.

The offer was made at a meeting of the military chiefs of staff from nearly 30 countries held at Nato's headquarters. The unprecedented meeting was held after similar sessions between the foreign ministers and defence ministers of the North Atlantic Co-operation Council, the new body which draws together Nato members and representatives from Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and the former Soviet republics.

General Vigleik Elde, Norwegian chairman of Nato's military committee, said joint working committees would be established to draw up a legal framework for the integration of the forces of the old Cold War power blocs. "Eventually there will be interest in equipment compatibility, and in some Western arms procurement co-operation," he said.

France, which is not in Nato's military structure, and Iceland, which has no armed forces, were observers at the meeting, and some Eastern states appointed others to represent them. Several former Soviet republics, including Kazakhstan, Kirghizia, Moldova and Uzbekistan, were absent.

Ukraine, which is embroiled in a tug-of-war with Russia over control of the former Soviet Union's tactical nuclear weapons and the Black Sea fleet, was also absent.

Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander of the armed forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, who held a bilateral meeting with General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said he discussed strategic and tactical weapons, conventional forces and "ways to find political solutions to conflicts throughout the world", adding: "We have developed common approaches to all these issues."

General Powell said Marshal Shaposhnikov had assured him that Moscow had solid control of all the nuclear weapons in the former Soviet republics. America said on Thursday that it had warned Russia, Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan, the four republics with nuclear arms, that they must move quickly to ratify the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (Start), which will reduce long-range weapons by about 30 per cent.

General Powell said he hoped Ukraine would soon resume shipment of nuclear weapons to Russia. Kiev has suspended the shipments in a dispute over the monitoring of their destruction. "We have reasons to be very hopeful that tactical nuclear weapons returns... to Russia will begin again in due course," General Powell said.

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Yeltsin wins time for a reshuffle

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SUPPORTERS and opponents of Boris Yeltsin were locked in combat yesterday, trying to wrest from each other the vital concessions that would allow the Russian Congress of People's Deputies to complete its agenda. Behind the scenes, a compromise of sorts was taking shape, but President Yeltsin had expressed misgiving and many hours' more work was envisaged.

The immediate issue is the continuation of the special powers Mr Yeltsin was granted at the last congress in October when he became prime minister. These include his rights to form a government without reference to parliament and to decree on economic matters. More than half the number of deputies appear to believe that the reforms have run out

of control, brought undesirable consequences, and should be adjusted.

By mid-morning, Mr Yeltsin had averted the first threat — a draft congress document that would have stripped him of the special powers and required him to relinquish the post of prime minister.

Before the draft had been referred back to the editing commission, Mr Yeltsin strode to the rostrum and said that an immediate government reshuffle was out of the question. He undertook to nominate an additional deputy prime minister before the end of the congress, scheduled for next Wednesday, and nominate a new government by October 1 with a view to completing the process by December 1. "By then, all will be clear."

his prime minister, Kirijich Miyazawa, but also Mickey Mouse at the Tokyo Disneyland. Tokyo sources have denied a report by the former Communist party daily, *Pravda*, that Mr Gorbachev had been promised \$500,000 (£290,000) for the "commercial visit" by two Japanese newspapers, *Yomiuri* and *Asahi*.

The Cindy Adams column in the *New York Post* reports that Gotti, "the dapper Don", is allowed one telephone call a night at the correctional centre and used one to talk to her for six minutes about his appeal. He said: "We'll be back out there again... too many errors were made."

Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev and his wife Raisa are due in Tokyo for a private visit to meet not only Emperor Akihito and

Jane Fonda, a newlywed at 54, says age and her marriage to the media tycoon, Ted Turner have helped her appreciate the quieter satisfactions of home and family. "I was driven every moment of my life," she told the *Boston Daily Chronicle* of her years as a liberal firebrand.

She said issues important to her now include "rest and replenishment and feeling safe and secure with somebody."

"That's what Ted is for me, and the few things I regret in my life are... not having put enough time into mothering, wiving, taking care of the inner life," she said.

Spike Lee blames a racist Hollywood system for the trouble he had getting funding for his upcoming film, *Malcolm X*, the story of the Black Muslim leader. "Hollywood still doesn't recognise black cinema," he said. "They still aren't ready to spend as much money on black film as they do on white." Lee said

during a talk at Rochester Institute of Technology that he had trouble getting the budget he thought he needed from Warner Brothers, which

came up with \$29 million. A completion bond company took over when the film went \$5 million over budget, he said.

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Belgium
expels
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De Klerk meets Babangida

Black and white find harmony in Nigeria

FROM ELIZABETH OBADINA IN LAGOS

SOUTH Africa and Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, put four decades of hostility behind them in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, yesterday when President Babangida pledged support for President de Klerk's constitutional reforms.

They discussed improving bilateral relations, the future of South Africa within the family of African nations, and Nigeria's role as a mediator between Pretoria and its internal opponents. Mr de Klerk said before leaving that the talks had been "warm and friendly, extremely constructive".

Earlier he told a state banquet in his honour: "History has kept us apart for many reasons for many decades. Tonight we can say that the barriers of history are being broken down." Mr de Klerk also provided the entertainment, joining in a quartet with his wife, Marika, and General and Mrs Babangida. The four held hands and sang of the need to make the world a better place for everyone.

The performance amazed Nigerians, whose government had previously turned down South African requests for a visit. At the banquet General Babangida said that the whites-only referendum on March 17 which backed Mr de Klerk's reforms was the turning point which precipitated this first visit.

He described Mr de Klerk as a visionary leader who had "taken a well-deserved position" alongside the black South African heroes, Steve

Biko and Nelson Mandela. He said South Africa's policies were "tremendously exciting" and promised Nigeria's support for constitutional development through the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. The Pan Africanist Congress, which has consistently refused to participate in Codesa, met South African officials for the first time in Abuja.

General Babangida expressed serious concern about the wave of violence in South Africa which he said, posed "incalculable danger for the reform process".

The South Africans hope that their visit to Abuja will open doors to the rest of Africa and help them join the Organisation of African Unity. But Bolaji Akinyemi, a former Nigerian foreign minister, said on television on Thursday night that OAU members were never quite comfortable with Nigeria taking initiatives such as this, and that he was not sure whether General Babangida was acting as chairman of the OAU or president of Nigeria.

Mr de Klerk's visit comes after the resumption last week of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Ivory Coast, Nigeria's neighbour, and many African nations look to Nigeria to provide a lead. Nigeria wants to see South Africa join the African Economic Treaty, signed in Abuja during last June's OAU summit.

Pointing out that Africa faces the challenge of overcoming poverty, illiteracy and

the needs of development, Mr de Klerk said: "Nigeria is one of the pivotal points in addressing these challenges and the needs of our continent. And South Africa is another pivotal point doing exactly the same. And if we join forces with others in Africa to accept the challenges, the dynamics which will result will be much greater than the dynamism and power of all the component parts."

Although the visit is unlikely to bring an immediate end to Nigerian sanctions against South Africa, it has hastened the process. South Africa hopes to benefit from Nigeria's oil, whilst Nigerian businessmen look forward to embracing South Africa's technology.

However Professor Akinyemi sounded a note of caution, saying that with Nigerian industry unable to even satisfy internal market, "South African goods are likely to flood the Nigerian market rather than the other way around".



Reaching out: President Babangida outlines the advantages to Nigeria of his new friendship with President de Klerk during his meeting yesterday with the South African leader at the presidential residence in Abuja

Two shots fired near Mandela

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

TWO shots were fired yesterday as Nelson Mandela, the president of the African National Congress, drove through Ensenlani, a black township in northern Natal where at least 60 people have been killed in the past three months.

It was not clear if the shots came near Mr Mandela. Saki Macozoma, an ANC spokesman, said he had seen a man with a gun in a field and ANC security officials said later they had found a man who said he had been "playing" with his home-made weapon and did not mean to frighten anyone.

Meanwhile, the ANC has demanded that the South African Army's controversial 32 Battalion, consisting of Namibians and former Angolans, be confined to barracks and disbanded after an alleged rampage through Phola Park squatter camp east of Johannesburg. The ANC claims that on Wednesday units of the battalion assaulted more than 100 people in the camp, killed one woman and raped several.

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Africa club puts out welcome mat for unlikely hero

The nations of black Africa are increasingly looking to South Africa as an export market and potential investment bank, Sam Kiley writes

President de Klerk could not have hoped for a more fulsome welcome or more passionate flattery on his first visit to Nigeria. A 21-gun salute and his inclusion by General Ibrahim Babangida in South Africa's gallery of reformist heroes, such as Nelson Mandela and Steve Biko, is a sure sign that South Africa is now allowed to come in from the cold and rejoin the dark continent as a full member.

This is a breakthrough for Mr de Klerk and for the South African ministry of foreign affairs which sees Nigeria, Kenya and Egypt as the main access for developing economic and political ties throughout Africa. It is equally, if not more, important for the many African countries anxious to do business with Pretoria but so far have been coy in their dealing with the republic for fear of upsetting the African National Congress.

With Nigeria's General Babangida holding the presidency of the Organisation of African Unity, South Africa's announcement that it would like to join the body is well timed. Mr de Klerk is sure to win Nigeria's much needed backing and may take his seat at the organisation's headquarters in Addis Ababa before the end of the year.

South Africans want to join the organisation not so much because they see it as a worthwhile group — it has been no more effective in helping to solve Africa's problems than the League of Nations was at preventing the second world war — but because, as one diplomat put it, "that would be the cherry on the cake for us. A sign that we are at last being accepted as Africa's equal."



Botha: trade route to Nigeria, Egypt, Kenya

Other Africans are looking to South Africa as a vast potential market for their exports as well as a sort of pan-African investment bank. Many, like the Kenyans, relish the thought of the arrival of planeloads of aggressive and competent South African businessmen with joint venture proposals in their briefcases that will revitalise semi-dormant local industries.

As a group of black Sowetan businessmen said after a recent visit to Kenya, one of the best-run black African countries, "they will have to smarten up their acts". The businessmen were shocked at the state of the roads, telephones and other services in Mombasa, Kenya's second city. "What is President Moi going to do to raise his people from the gutter?" they wondered.

Nevertheless Kenya, where South Africa already has a permanent representative, and Nigeria are crucial for developing Pretoria's influence over the continent. R.W. "Pik" Botha and others in his foreign ministry are not much interested in what the others have to offer. Their priority is the erstwhile frontline states, then come Egypt in the north as a gateway to the Middle East and the two capitalist economies in East and West Africa. "We feel very strongly about Lagos, Cairo and Nairobi," a South African official said. "We are sure we can work well with those countries immediately. But the further north you go, the greater the belief that South Africa is coming to the continent with bags of money to invest. If you look at our economy, there is not much to spread around."

That makes the success of Mr de Klerk's Lagos visit all the more crucial as oil-rich Nigeria has the potential to become an investor in South Africa rather than the other way round.

As Mr Botha said in Lagos this week, Nigeria, which has the largest population on the continent, and South Africa, which has the biggest economy, can combine to project more forcefully the views of Africa, which is in danger being marginalised and ignored by the industrialised world.



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Afghan deal promises peace

Najibullah agrees to give up power

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

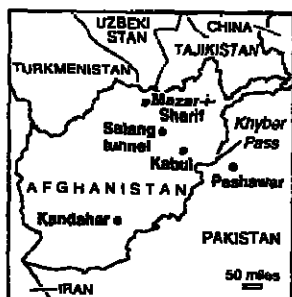
PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan announced yesterday that he was ready to hand over control of his disintegrating administration to a 15-man transitional council being set up by the United Nations. He may resign before the end of the month.

The council will attempt to stop the country sinking further into ethnic and tribal anarchy pending the installation of an interim government, which would try to pave the way to elections. Dr Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said in Geneva that creation of the transitional council, which will take over "as soon as possible", represented a first step towards reconciliation. UN sources said it was hoped that the body would hold power for no more than 45 days.

Dr Boutros Ghali said the agreement to set up the council marked "major progress" towards lasting peace in Afghanistan, racked by civil war since the overthrow of President Daoud by officers professing Soviet-style communism in 1978. He said the council would be composed of "impartial personalities" and a statement issued later said that consultations were under way on who would join the council and on other arrangements for the transitional period. It said there was an understanding that, once the council took power, there would be a cessation of hostilities, a declaration of general amnesty and guarantees of safety and security for all Afghans.

The transitional council will be a weak structure, serving as a modest symbol of power in Kabul while a *jirga* (assembly) is convened, possibly next month, aimed at setting up an interim government. The assembly was due to be held in Geneva or Vienna, but may now be held inside Afghanistan. It faces daunting obstacles: Iran and Pakistan are fighting for influence, rival mujahedin groups may compete for power, and worsening ethnic divisions may continue to blight peace prospects.

The new council was rejected yesterday by Gulbuddin



Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-i-Islami, the most powerful mujahedin group. "Without our participation it will fail," he said. The hardline fundamentalist leader seemed determined to hold out for a military victory over Kabul, remote as his success may seem. UN and Western observers believe that he could eventually become isolated and increasingly irrelevant to the peace process. In the end, he may even participate.

Benon Sevan, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan who has held intensive negotiations over the past few months with all sides in the Afghan conflict and the governments of neighbouring Pakistan and Iran, is expected to announce the names of the 15 members of the new council next week. There is bound to be controversy over the choices. He is due to meet mujahedin groups in Pakistan on Tuesday, including Hezb-i-Islami, to try to persuade them to go along with the peace plan.

Dr Najibullah has watched power rapidly drain away from him in recent months amid increasing ethnic tensions. Serious food shortages have affected even the privileged minority who possess government food coupons, further eroding his power base. Should he step down, he is likely to take the remaining top loyalists in his Wazari (homeland) party with him, leaving a power vacuum that the new council would attempt to fill.

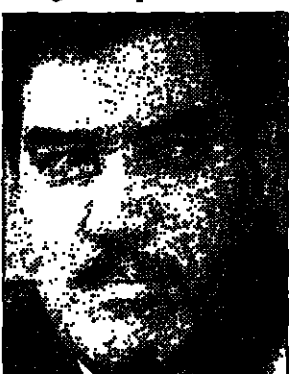
One crucial question concerns what the army and the government's militia forces will do if they fall apart. Kabul could go the way of other Afghan cities that have been overrun and plundered

by mujahedin rebels. But the military is likely to remain intact and support the new council. With Dr Najibullah out of power, non-Pashtun militia groups that have mutilated in recent weeks might return to the fold.

The battle to save Afghanistan from further ethnic and tribal warfare is at a critical stage. The ethnic divide is essentially along Pashtun and anti-Pashtun lines, reflecting centuries of resentment at the dominating position of Pashtuns over the apparatus of government.

Mazar-i-Sharif, the second largest city, has fallen to renegade Uzbek and Tajik militia who rebelled against Pashtun domination. The rebels control a section of the Salang highway, the only land link to Central Asia and a vital supply lifeline. The loss of the city and the Salang dealt a serious blow to Dr Najibullah's prestige and demonstrated that he was losing control.

Pakistan is keen for peace in Afghanistan. It has abandoned support for a military solution and pulled away from fundamentalist groups, principally because of pressure from central Asian republics that do not want a fundamentalist regime to the south. Without stability in Afghanistan, Pakistan's access to the valuable Central Asian market will be seriously hampered. Islamabad also fears that rising anarchy across the border will lead to another wave of refugees, adding to three million already living in camps.



Najibullah: plagued by shortages of food



In the bag: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, signalling success at a press conference in Geneva yesterday when he announced the agreement of most sides in the Afghan conflict to set up a 15-member governing transitional council in Kabul

Brown rages at drug 'fiction'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AFTER weeks of hurling accusations at Bill Clinton, Jerry Brown yesterday found himself on the receiving end. Four past members of his security detail alleged that, as governor of California in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Democratic presidential candidate hosted parties at which "large quantities" of cocaine and marijuana were used.

The charges, coming on the day that President Bush denounced 1992 as "about the ugliest political year I've ever seen", prompted furious denials from Mr Brown, who cancelled a campaign rally in Virginia and rushed to Washington's television network studios to defend himself.

Mr Brown called the charges "bizarre, defamatory and unsubstantiated". He said they had to be politically inspired. The 54-year-old bachelor said he never held parties, which was "why I'm supposed to be weird".

The house in question, in Los Angeles, he used primarily as an office. "This is an invention. It's a fiction. It's an assassination," he added.

The charges were made on ABC television, which aired interviews with two of the police officers who faces were obscured and identities hidden. "After the parties, if you will, were over and we cleared the residence, we could smell the odour of marijuana and we found traces of a white, powdery substance which we later identified as cocaine," one said. "Throughout the house were ashtrays with seeds or leftovers of marijuana. In one form or another, there was evidence of it in every room," said the other.

Neither claimed to have seen Mr Brown using drugs, but under California law it is an offence knowingly to have either drug in one's house. The officers claimed they did not arrest Mr Brown at the time because he was governor of California and their job was to protect him, but that they did raise the issue with their superiors, who did nothing. They refused to be identified for fear of losing their jobs or pensions.

Numerous figures came forward to denounce the charges, including two of Mr Brown's police drivers, the chief of his state police detail at the time, and two of his former chiefs of staff.

The charges came just a few days after Bill Clinton, Mr Brown's opponent, admitted on a television chat show that he had tried marijuana while a student at Oxford. Appearing on the same programme, Mr Brown denied ever breaking drugs laws, adding: "I agree with Clinton. Why don't you lay off this stuff? What you did 10 or 20 years ago is not relevant."

Khomeini's son warns the West

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEHRAN

THE spectre of the late Ayatollah Khomeini loomed over yesterday's general election in Iran as candidates were reminded of their duty to honour his memory by continuing to export the Islamic revolution. The call by his radical son, Ahmad, was a snub to moderate President Rafsanjani, who has emphasised that the vote should be the signal for improved ties with the outside world.

Looking like his father in a black turban, Ahmad, a symbolic but influential figure, spoke after casting his vote in the room where the ayatollah used to preach after the 1979 revolution. He was greeted with prayers vowing death to America, Britain and Israel. About 2,200 candidates are vying for a place in the 270-seat parliament. Political parties are banned, but most support one or the other of two rival Muslim clerical societies.

Ahmad Khomeini attacked the foreign media for supposedly inventing the power struggle between "moderate" and "radical" factions which has dominated the campaign. Special visas have

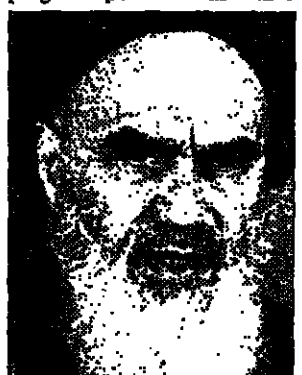
been granted to 60 foreign journalists to cover the event. Despite evidence to the contrary in the 30,000 polling stations, he insisted the split was the figment of the imagination of the big powers.

Invoking the memory of his father, who on the eve of the last election in 1989 urged the nation not to vote for "capitalist Islam", Ahmad Khomeini, who was not a candidate, warned the outside world that the new deputies would persist in spreading Iran's revolution to every Islamic nation. Following growing Iranian influence in Africa, the threat was seen in diplomatic circles as a hint that Iran will continue to be a source of violent instability.

Hojatollah Rafsanjani pledged to support democracy and said his government would respond to public opinion expressed by the poll. Most voters expressed a belief that the moderates, encouraged during the campaign in which President Rafsanjani's brother controlled radio and television, would win a parliamentary majority for the first time.

Among the smart villas in the north of the city, voters expressed enthusiasm for economic reform, outside investment and the return of exiled professionals. Across the city in the slums, opinion was more divided. Walls were still covered with anti-American slogans and thousands of militiamen were prepared for disruption by Islamic rebels calling for a boycott.

A swing to the moderates of 15 per cent is considered likely and sufficient to prevent the radicals from using parliament to block political and economic reform. The poll's outcome will not be known until after a second round of voting.



Ayatollah Khomeini: shadow cast over poll

Canada's Indians win deal

Ottawa: Canadian constitutional negotiators have agreed to recognise the inherent right of Canada's aboriginal peoples to self-government (John Bess writes).

The agreement in principle was announced at the end of two days of talks involving representatives of the federal government and the provinces in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The deal was hailed as an important victory by the country's most powerful native Indian leader.

Ovide Mercredi, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said that a stumbling block to the achievement of the aspirations of Canada's one million aboriginals had been cleared. Bob Rae, the premier of Ontario and leading exponent of the rights of indigenous populations, called the accord a legal, moral and psychological breakthrough. He said Canada was finally coming to terms with 500 years of colonial history.

Imelda yields

Manila: Imelda Marcos, the Philippines presidential candidate and former first lady, has agreed to a government demand to delay the return of the body of her husband, Ferdinand, the former president, until after the elections on May 11. (AFP)

Reactors sold

Peking: China will export miniature nuclear reactors to Syria and Ghana, the Xinhua news agency reported. The announcement was apparently designed to counter Western criticism of the usually secretive nuclear deals China does. (AP)

Exodus ended

Geneva: Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, said he has arranged the repatriation to Burma of about 200,000 mainly Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled into Bangladesh alleging rape and murder by the Burmese army. (AFP)

Mop-up begins

Phnom Penh: A unit of Britain's Royal Engineers will begin a landmine-clearing programme next week in Cambodia around the western town of Pailin, which is controlled by the Khmer Rouge, their commanding officer said. (Reuters)

Help planned

Addis Ababa: The presidents of Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Djibouti have agreed to set up a co-ordinating body to help six million refugees in the region and the ten million people displaced by drought and war. Somalia failed to attend the summit. (AFP)

Shrinking sales

Tokyo: Konica, the Japanese camera maker, will next week put the world's smallest single-use camera on sale. The size of a packet of cigarettes, it will cost £7.60 with a flash or £4 without. The company offers to refit the cameras for reuse. (Reuters)

Stamped out

Jerusalem: A poster of Marilyn Monroe wearing a glittery bathing costume and doing a jig has been banned from Israeli post offices for fear it would offend religious Jews. The poster advertised an issue of stamps depicting dead film stars. (Reuters)

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Noriega armoury of appeals can drag case on for years

WHILE the Bush administration celebrated the conviction on Thursday of Manuel Noriega, the former Panamanian military leader, as an important victory against drugs, American criminal lawyers said that the cocaine trafficking and racketeering case against him was flawed and could drag on for years in the appeal courts.

Unease among American lawyers about the trial was matched by Democrat congressmen who yesterday questioned the propriety in bringing General Noriega before a US court, and raised again objections to the 1989 American invasion of Panama which led to the toppling of the military leader and his arrest. "I think it will be remembered as one of the worst pages in our history," said Charles Schumer, a New York congressman.

Criticism of the case was dismissed by William Barr, the US attorney-general. "This sends an important message to the drug lords: there are no safe havens; their wealth and their firepower cannot protect them forever." Much of the Bush administration's delight in the outcome of the seven-month long trial in Miami against Noriega can be put down to relief. If he had been found not guilty, then

American lawyers fear the case against Noriega will not stand the scrutiny facing it in the appeal courts, Jamie Dettmer in Washington writes

the administration's justification for the 1989 invasion would have fallen by the wayside. The disquiet the case has provoked centres on the unprecedented nature of how Noriega found himself sitting in an American court. Never before has the United States invaded another country and brought its head of state back to America to stand trial.

Noriega's main lawyer, Frank Rubino, constantly highlighted his client's status as head of state and challenged the right of US courts to hear the case. The federal judge in the Miami trial warned jurors against taking into account the manner of Noriega's arrest and said that questions of jurisdiction should not concern them. They are, however, likely to concern an appeal court.

In an appeal, Mr Rubino is also likely to argue that the freezing of Noriega's financial assets by the US government was illegal and prevented the former dictator from having the ability to pay for as wide legal

representation as he might have wanted. Government electronic interceptions of telephone calls the former military leader made from his prison cell to his lawyers will also come up. Mr Rubino will also ask an appeal court to rule on the validity of the trial judge's decision in prohibiting the defence from presenting evidence that Noriega was co-operating with the CIA in the war against drugs.

Several leading US lawyers believe that Mr Rubino's case could well be a compelling one. "Everybody who has witnessed this case has been shocked at the government's behaviour," said Jeffrey Weiner, president of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers.

The issue of the right of federal law enforcement agents to seize fugitives abroad is already before the Supreme Court, which is to rule on a case of a Mexican who was abducted by federal agents. A decision in favour of the Mexican would have important repercussions for a Noriega appeal.



Clifford Longley

What is the moral basis for the capitalist system?

Civil servants at the Department of Trade and Industry or the Treasury should not be too coy about including in the in-tray of new ministers a copy of the Bishop of Oxford's latest book *Is there a Gospel for the Rich?*

Bishop Richard Harries's tone is at times disconcertingly anecdotal. The advance publicity and title are not a reliable guide to its drift. But there is no greater need in theology and commerce (and in politics) than for a book which tells each world what the other is thinking, and sets them in a historical context. There is no other such book, and Harries's faults of presentation are as nothing to his virtues of comprehensiveness and timeliness.

There is a growth industry in discourse about morality and business, ethics and wealth creation, capitalism and Christianity. The removal of Marxism as a serious intellectual challenge only adds to the need for constructive scrutiny of the moral credentials of capitalism. If it is not going to be done by the left at least it can be done in the name of religion. Two years ago *The Times* contributed to this surge of interest with its own seminar on the subject, sponsored jointly with the Comino Foundation and preceded by a series of three excellent articles in the paper (to which Bishop Harries refers).

On the one hand, those in industry and commerce were groping towards some comprehension of their confused world in the light of moral imperatives, particularly religious ones. On the other, representatives of experts in religion and morality were groping towards some verdict on the activities of industrialists and businessmen more useful (and true) than the old *anathema sit*.

The question whether a rich man can be a Christian, posed by Bishop Harries's title, is the one area of this subject most open to platitudes — of which the disparity between God and Mammon is the most obvious and least illuminating. It is none the less the needle's eye which has to be passed through on the way to an appraisal of the morality of various forms of economic activity. Damning all forms of capitalism as mere selfish greed — a common church attitude which Bishop Harries effectively demolishes — leads only to poverty, central planning or both.

Politicians and economists of the right, assuming that the free market can manage everything, are inclined to neglect the case for an ethical foundation to industry. Businessmen tend to be more aware of the need for some moral legitimisation of wealth creation. Politicians of the left, meanwhile, are at least as much in ignorance, finding it hard to say anything in favour of wealth creation or market forces. To that extent they can be bracketed with the churches against industry and commerce. They too need to be made to examine their moral prejudices.

There is plenty of polemic. What has been lacking is a dispassionate overview, an encyclopaedia of theological writing on economic issues, not neglecting Adam Smith and Karl Marx. Also among the most important sources are the papal encyclicals on Catholic social teaching, upon which there is no adequate English commentary despite the great influence of this tradition inside the European Community. Nor is the wisdom of the Bible on social organisation and economic activity accessible except to experts, despite its great influence in shaping capitalist society in 19th-century Britain and America.

Although he deals with both these sources generously, one odd omission from the Bishop's compilation is a thorough treatment of Archbishop William Temple. Temple is often regarded as a mainstay of the Anglican tradition of "social responsibility", and he was one of the architects of the British welfare state consensus which followed Beveridge. Any assessment of the moral health of a state's socio-economic arrangements cannot ignore the treatment of its citizens' needs and hardships. Because of the Establishment and the church's long tradition of charitable service, Anglicanism has traditionally felt a proprietorial interest in the welfare state, as a manifestation of the Christian nation. And yet the birth of the welfare state represented a moment of transfer, when private charitable foundations believed themselves to be superseded by government.

For such reasons as this, the neglect of Temple in a contemporary review of leading influences is perhaps an implicit acknowledgement that the development of specifically Anglican thinking on socio-economic issues has not kept up to date. Bishop Harries's contribution, needs to be followed up by many more, but it is a good start.

John Grigg says Labour lost because the party has failed to adapt to social change since 1945

Left behind by the voters

Yesterday people were comparing the election result with that of 1970, when Ted Heath's Conservatives came from behind — in the opinion polls, at any rate — to win a clear majority of votes and a workable majority of seats. There is some validity in the comparison, above all in what one might call the Dewey-Truman factor.

The classic American presidential election of 1948 confounded the pollsters by giving Harry S. Truman a wholly unexpected victory over Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York. Throughout the campaign Dewey was regarded — and, fatally, came to regard himself — as a certain winner. He spoke and acted as though he were already president, while Truman campaigned relentlessly, showing confidence that he would win but never taking victory for granted.

Much the same happened in Britain in 1970. Harold Wilson behaved in a presidential manner throughout the campaign,

hardly referring to Mr Heath and resting on the evidence of the polls which, until the last moment, seemed to point to a certain Labour re-election. Heath battled on, refusing to believe that his cause was lost. In the event a Labour majority of about 100 (in 1966) was turned into a Conservative majority of 30.

During the past three weeks, the Labour party has been talking and acting as though it were already the government. There was John Smith's "budget" and his appearance with his shadow colleagues posing on the steps of the Treasury. There was John Cunningham's bland prospectus of the steps the Labour government would take immediately the new Parliament assembled.

Poor Mr Kinnock was forced to act quite out of character, as a

statesman weighing and measuring his words, whereas his special strength is as a fiery and spontaneous orator.

To find the last occasion when a party in power improved its position between the beginning and the end of an election campaign we have to go back to 1951. At that poll, the Labour party under Clement Attlee, which had been in power since 1945, ended with a small majority (a little over 200,000) of the total vote, but through the capricious workings of our electoral system it still lost the election. The Conservatives under Winston Churchill had a small working majority in Parliament — smaller than Mr Major's is now — and they were able to govern with considerable success for four years.

Eighteen months earlier, in February 1950, the majority

of 146 that Labour had won in its landslide victory of 1945 had been reduced to an overall majority of only five, rather than the big Conservative majority of 1987 has been cut, though less drastically, in this election.

But Labour hung on then, despite a formidable challenge from a chastened and revitalised Conservative party. And it would probably have hung on through a whole parliament, or have won again in 1951 — in seats as well as votes — had it not been torn apart by Aneurin Bevan's resignation and the beginnings of civil war in the party.

Another disadvantage for Labour was that, unlike Mr Major, Attlee was an ageing and tired leader, who had been in high office since he joined the Churchill coalition in 1940. (By

contrast Mr Major is a new leader and relatively young.) Nevertheless, Labour polled massively in 1950 and 1951, and the reason is surely clear: most people in Britain then felt that they lived on the wrong side of the tracks. Relatively few owned their own homes or had substantial property of any kind. Most lived in rented accommodation and were dependent solely on their wages and on state welfare. Labour was, therefore, the natural party to defend their interests, and they rallied to it instinctively.

Today the socio-economic balance is emphatically weighted the other way. The standard of living of the average person has more than doubled. Moreover, he or she is more than likely to be a homeowner, and quite likely to be a shareholder. Despite the recession, most people

now feel that they are on the right side of the tracks. Prosperity is widespread, and those who have not yet attained it, or who have temporarily lost it, do not wish to change the conditions in which it can be created and enjoyed. Even if they have not yet achieved it, most people aspire to prosperity, and the Conservative party is therefore the natural party of enough people to provide a parliamentary majority under the existing system.

Just as the Conservatives worked hard after 1945 to live down their 1930s reputation and to improve their image, so the Labour party has worked hard to live down its past and to acquire the image of a party relevant to the 1990s. But it has failed yet again, and a more fundamental reappraisal, together with a long overdue realignment of forces on the left, now seems imperative.

John Grigg is the author of *Lloyd George: The People's Champion* (Methuen).

A day is a long time in politics

After 16 months John Major has a mandate, but his first decisions will be crucial, says Peter Riddell

John Major yesterday at last looked a prime minister at ease with himself. As he strolled along Downing Street chatting to the crowds, he was demonstrating his pride that "I can now accept that the country has elected me in my own right to be prime minister."

A transitional figure for the past 16 months, he was yesterday savouring his own mandate. He has the freedom of manoeuvre previously denied to him as a leader on probation with his party and the country. Mr Major now has as much political power as he will ever have. It will not last long. In the next few days he has the chance to define what a Major government means, in both personnel and policy terms.

In the past, such moments of triumph have often been illusory and short-lived. Working majorities are no protection against external pressures or hubris. Harold Wilson's re-elected administration in 1966 soon stumbled into a sterling crisis, while over-confidence led Margaret Thatcher at the start of her third term in 1987 to ignore warnings from her Treasury ministers about the poll tax.

Mr Major is too shrewd a politician to believe that the Tories' success against expectations gives him a blank cheque, but it is a personal vindication against the sniping by both fellow Tories and the media. He can no longer be patronised.

The first test will be the reshuffle of his ministerial team. When he became prime minister, his room for manoeuvre was limited both by his inheritance and by his desire — and obligation — to reward his campaign team. Since then, some ministers have looked tired and lacked political sharpness. The presentation of both economic and health policies has often been deficient.

Mr Major now has the chance

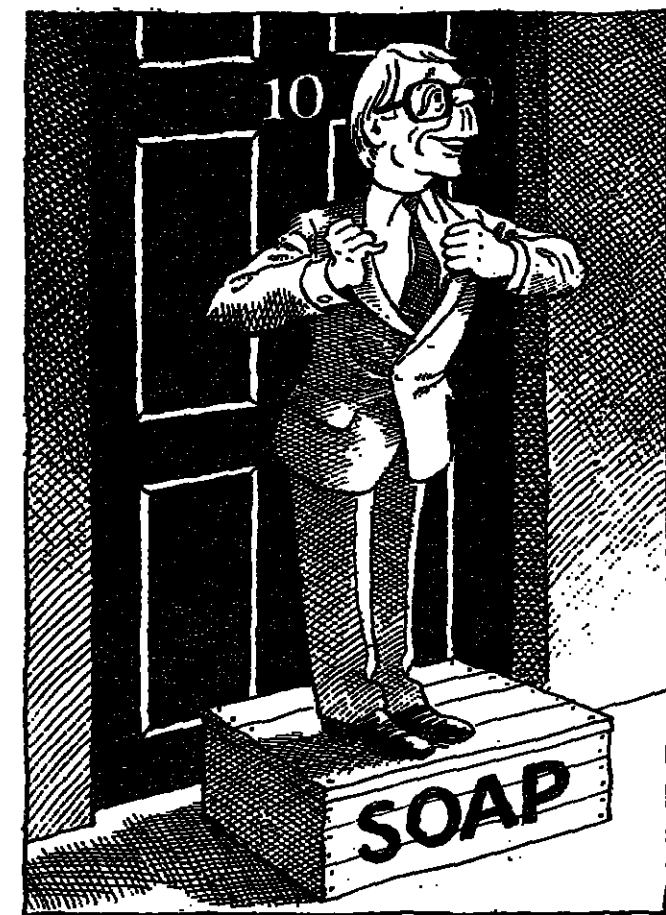
RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

to remedy these weaknesses, to retire long-serving ministers and to fill the gaps left by the defeat of ministers seeking re-election, as well as a chance to change the structure of Whitehall, as promised in the manifesto. Often during the campaign Michael Heseltine looked like a joint deputy prime minister with Douglas Hurd. Now he is likely to have his reward, since, with the Tories re-elected, he is no longer even a potential threat to Mr Major; any question of the Tory leadership is far ahead.

In the Queen's Speech on May 6, Mr Major can define his own programme: broadening incentives and ownership, and spreading the benefits of Thatcherism. We shall see if the Citizen's Charter really can improve public services.

But Mr Major cannot carry on as if nothing has happened in the past month. Opinion polls and comments made on the doorstep were not all wrong. Many voters, especially in the South East, have felt let down because of the recession, the poll tax and standards of public services. They have not been lying over the past few weeks. I never saw much real enthusiasm for Labour, but rather dislike of Neil Kinnock and doubts about its plans. So when voters came to make their choice on Thursday — sustaining the Tory share of the vote at its 1983 and 1987 levels — their main concerns, as always, were their personal well-being and fears about Labour's tax plans.

If the earlier poll findings were essentially a protest vote, they were still a protest, to which ministers know they have to respond. However, Mr Major now has time on his side to deal with these worries. The Tory



majority should be sufficient to see them through at least three years without too many troubles in the Commons. There should be time not only for the economic recovery to begin, but also for the Treasury to take a grip of the public finances. The next polling day will no doubt see the economic and political cycles back in line.

By the time of the next election, the Tories will also have had time to entrench the changes to the health service and education which are now only half completed. Most large hospitals will have become trusts, a majority of general practitioners will have become independent fundholders, and a wave of schools will be seeking grant-maintained status. Compulsory competitive tendering in the aftermath of victory, the Tories appear to be not only the natural party of government but

also perhaps the perpetual one, like the Liberal Democrats in Japan. That question was, of course, posed after Labour's loss in 1992, and then looked silly in 1994. But Labour is now starting to run out of excuses. It is no good blaming the bias of the tabloid press. The party has fought stronger campaigns than the Tories in both the last two elections and yet has lost, perhaps showing how unimportant all the presentational devices really are. Mr Kinnock is a liability and will no doubt go after a bruising 8½ years; his achievement has been to rescue Labour from the abyss of 1983.

But that is not a sufficient explanation. If after its far-reaching policy review, and fighting an election during a deep recession, Labour can still not win, then when can it win? It can hardly qualify its commitment to a redistributive approach much further without ceasing to be a democratic socialist party.

Nor is there much evidence that the public is interested in constitutional changes. The Liberal Democrats' stress on hung parliaments may have scared voters back to the Tories this week, and in Scotland the Tories rallied waverers by warning about dangers to the union.

We may not all be Tories now — 57 per cent still support opposition parties — but the message of the election, and Mr Major's opportunity now, is that enough of the public does not want to risk a return to redistributive policies and a collectivist approach. They do not want to sacrifice earlier gains. No wonder Mrs Thatcher looked pleased in the early hours of yesterday. Her legacy will be safeguarded.

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...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there. We cannot recapture time past, though it is the job of writers and historians and film-makers and playwrights to try. Sometimes they succeed marvelously in putting new flesh on old bones. *Hamlet* is a contemporary story of everyday screwed-up folk, even though it is unconvincing on the details of court etiquette in Elsinore in the Dark Ages. It did not destroy the dying fall of Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day* that his butler hero got butlering activities wrong and went around filling up glasses with port after dinner.

Flaws in dating — making Anglo-Saxons eat potatoes or Old King Cole smoke a pipe — are called anachronisms, referring something backwards to the wrong time. They have never much bothered creative artists.

Cecil B. De Mille was feeling ill because he couldn't put Moses in the Wars of the Roses.

The *Camomile Lawn* on television proved a happy hunting ground for anachronistic nit-pickers. Private soldiers in uniform were not allowed to dine in the smarter London restaurants of the period. The air-raid warning evidently never sounded like that. The problem with the screenplay was that, unlike the book, it lacked charm.

It would have been an anachronism for Cleopatra's barge to have been depicted as powered by an outboard motor. The word comes from the Greek *ana-*

chronos, out of time, something late or backward in timing, and means an error in chronology, putting a person, event, or thing in the wrong period. Shakespeare did not power Cleopatra's barge with an outboard, perhaps because it was not in his excellent source, Plutarch, done into French by Jacques Amyot, and done again beautifully into English by Thomas North. But Shakespeare was a master anachronist. In *Henry IV*, just before Falstaff is set upon by the swelling mob of rogues in buckram, the first carrier exclaims: "God's body, the turkeys in my panner are quite starved." The turkey had been partially domesticated by the Indians before the official European discovery of North America in 1492, but the silly birds were not imported into Spain before 1519. They were fashionable delicacies when *Henry IV* was written in 1597, but not when *Henry IV* died in the Jerusalem Chamber in 1413. Anachronism.

In *Julius Caesar*, Brutus says to Cassius, "Peace! Count the clock." To which Cassius replies, "The clock has struck three." Clocks were not known to the Romans, and striking-clocks were not invented until some 1,400 years after the death of Caesar. Shakespeare brought cannon into *King John*, intruding them into a rude age where the only missile weapons were bows and arrows.

In *Antony and Cleopatra* Cleopatra says to her girl, "Let it alone. Let's to billiards. Come, Charmian." Charmian replies: "My arm is sore. Best play with Mardian." Cleopatra, suggestively, "As well a woman with an arm as a man." As with a woman. Come, you'll play with me, sir? It has been explained by po-faced scholars that Shakespeare got the idea that billiards was an Egyptian game, and a favourite pastime of women, from Chapman's *The Blind Beggar of Alexandria* of 1598, about ten years before he wrote *Antony and Cleopatra*. "Go, Aspasia, I send for some ladies to go play with you, / At chess, at billiards and at other game."

Shakespeare certainly borrowed and transmuted into gold from right, left, and centre when he was writing against the striking clock. But it is not necessary to believe in this ingenious source for the billiards anachronism. Shakespeare was writing for his contemporary theatre-goers, to make them listen and laugh at trendy references and the latest chat about turkeys and billiards from the smart lads and lasses. Anachronism is often a deliberate literary device, to make us feel that characters from the distant past are our brothers and sisters under our modern skins. Shaw did it in *Saint Joan* and *Androcles*, where the Emperor is referred to as Defender of the Faith. Anachronism rules in Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, and in much science fiction. It may have been a flaw in *The Camomile Lawn*, but it sure kept my eyes open.

No room on the board?

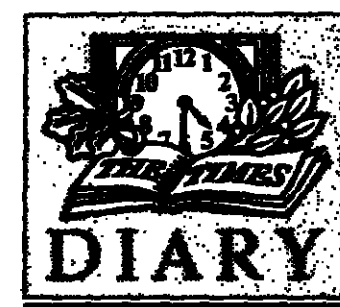
THE EIGHT government ministers and 37 other Tory MPs ejected from the cosy Commons coterie will find cold comfort in the job market outside the Palace of Westminster. Despite hopes of fast economic recovery, leading professional recruitment agencies say failed parliamentarians are difficult to employ at the best of times.

This will be particularly frustrating for retiring Tories who have been forced to recognise since 1979 that captains of industry and chairmen of banking houses can no longer get by with just a colourful old school tie.

"The private sector is now a meritocracy, and there is no room for inexperience," says John Courts, a senior recruitment consultant. "The members of parliament who have the most chance are those who have had jobs before. Their stints in the House of Commons are rarely considered to be of merit in today's Britain."

Nevertheless, as in the past, certain companies may offer grace and favour directorships to MPs whose names would grace the company letterhead.

Chris Patten, one presumes, is planning a fast return to the House. Lynda Chalker may head for Brussels as an EC commissioner, and Michael Fallon is tipped to take over as head of the Centre for Policy Studies. But for ousted ministers John Maples and Francis Maude — both of whom had been tipped for cabinet status — top-level appointments may be harder to find.



Back in office, is John Major going to be able to make it to the much-vaunted Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June? The heads of government meeting at the end of the summit was due for June 11 and 12, but it has now been changed to the 13th, following strong complaints from Islamic countries that the event interrupted the Eid al-Adha Muslim festival. This now means there is a clash with trooping the colour. A spokesman for Downing Street says: "Trooping the colour is a fairly solid entry in the diary of the prime minister. We will need to look at this."

Both past the post

Labour now has its own answer to the Tory husband and wife teams, the Bottomleys and the Winterons. Bridget and Gordon Prentice both triumphed in previously Tory-held seats. But their victories may lead to divided localities.

Bridget, 39, won Lewisham East from Colin Moynihan, while Gordon, 41, was elected to Pendle, 230 miles away. "Most MPs see their partners only at weekends," says Gordon. "It will be the other way round for us. We will see each other at parliament and our house in Lewisham will be our base in the week." Mrs Prentice plans to join her husband at weekends in

Pendle whenever her political diary permits.

Married for 17 years, the couple began their careers with the same London authority. Indeed they could not imagine working apart. "I sometimes borrow Bridget's speeches and she has been known to steal some of my lines. We will have to stop that now Parliament is televised," says Gordon.

Brillo!

AS Conservative Central Office celebrated its election victory yesterday, only one thing was missing: John Major's soapbox.

"I think it is still knocking around the back of the battle bus," admitted one party official. It will be rescued. Staff want the box.

It's the PM's soapbox or housing for the 90's

which originally came from the campaign department, to become a museum-piece. The idea is that the box should be placed on a plinth in the Central Office research department as a permanent reminder of the advice the department issued to the premier during his campaign. Other party apparatchiks favour putting it in the bookshop at central office. Saatchi & Saatchi, the Tories'

advertising agency, has even expressed an interest in using it as a prop in its presentations of political strategy.

Most likely, though, the famous item will be presented as a souvenir to John Major, wrapped in a blue ribbon of course. "I think he will want it. We all became very attached to it in a funny sort of way. There is no way that box will ever be a humble packing case again," said the official.

Snow effect

EVEN in distant Russia, there was no escaping the election. In the appropriately named "dive bar," the social centre of the Moscow mission, tucked in the embassy garden — a sizeable number of Britons followed the election results minute by minute via a satellite link with London. In a country where such all-night events have only recently become *de rigueur*, this was undoubtedly a first for embassy folk.

The three-hour time difference meant that results first flooded in between 4 and 5 am local time, making for some rather bleary-eyed diplomacy yesterday. For those left sipping coffee and watching Peter Snow and the BBC's swingometer at 6 am, the only reminder that this was Moscow came when it was time to leave. It was snowing.

If Chris Patten does stand for Parliament in a safe Tory seat, his opponents will no doubt seize upon this as a carefully chosen word of his from April 1988: "When you represent Bath you represent a real place — not an anonymous slab of suburbia. What I know," he continued in *The Bath Evening Chronicle*, "is that I shall only ever be the MP for Bath. No Plumshire North for me."



MR MAJOR'S '100 DAYS'

John Major has won a remarkable victory. Against the odds of historical precedent, he has brought the Conservative party home to its fourth election triumph in a row. He lost seats but held his poll share. The electorate gave him an almighty fright, but then went on to give him a working majority. Mr Major has been a good prime minister. He is now a national leader who has risen to the challenge of combat to beat a strong opponent. He deserves his party's plaudits.

The plainest advice to him now, from all who encouraged him to victory, is that he should press on with the mission begun by his predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, in 1979. That mission, left virtually in abeyance since 1990, was to dismantle the corporate state, whose aggrandisement has dominated postwar politics not just in Britain but across Europe. The task is arduous as much as practical. It was made harder by Mrs Thatcher's slowness in implementing her plans, and by a failure on the Tories' part clearly to separate in the public mind the popular virtues of the welfare state from the unpopular vices of excess government.

Affirming these virtues and attacking these vices lies at the root of Mr Major's task. He must hurry. The Labour party may be wounded but it could revive under a new leader and eat into the 21-strong Tory majority at by-elections. Mr Major may have to face another election before his full term is up. The team he puts together this weekend should be a team suited to fighting again alongside him on the hustings. His Queen's Speech must possess more radicalism than he has yet shown. He should make it a new "Hundred Days" programme of Tory radicalism.

Such a programme must hear the messages of the past year of electoral conflict. The first concerns the true cause of Mr Major's "fright", the state of the economy. Voters appear to have taken the view that, whoever may be to blame for the recession, they would rather be led out of it by a leader committed to the private sector and low taxes than by one committed to the public sector and high ones. But no Tory candidate can have missed the cry of those on whom Britain's recovery depends, that they felt let down by Tory performance over the past 18 months. Interest rates were kept too high for too long in pursuit of Mr Major's ideological conversion to fixed exchange rates and European monetary union.

Few Tories can lay their hands on their hearts and say that the scenario of the 1980s worked to plan: that the supply-side reforms of Thatcherism were so complete that all further economic downturns would be "soft" and constant growth sustainable. Mr Major's (new?) Chancellor may argue that he can play the present recovery long, staging the next boom in time for another election whenever the party wants it. All the more reason for finishing the job on which Mr Major's team were elected to Parliament in 1979: dismantling unjustified monopolies, breaking up and privatising the railway, promoting vocational education, stimulating

rented housing, ending professional restrictive practices. These are not just reforms to be set aside for a rainy day; they are essential if another recovery is not to lead to another slump. Without Mr Major's personal support, Whitehall's inertia will negate by delay as it did under Mrs Thatcher.

There are powerful interest groups that the government must now confront if its micro-economic policies are to work. In the 1980s, many groups — academics, doctors, scientists, lawyers, administrators — came to feel that government was unsympathetic to their vocation and their institutions. Mrs Thatcher confronted organised labour in the private sector mostly by crushing it. Mr Major must confront similar vested interests in the public sector, but his style is that of calm persuasion. He must use it to persuade professionals and other workers in Britain's public sector, in hospitals, schools, universities, public transport, defence, that they too must change, and change fast.

Whatever triumphalism might follow this week's victory, there were accusations that the government did not answer convincingly on the hustings. One was that modern government is still too intrusive, too bullying, too obsessed with centralisation. The Tories' marginally improved showing in Scotland, the result of Mr Major's declared belief in the union, should not lead the party back to its contempt for constitutional reform. The case for a constitutional commission for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is justified on every measure of democracy. The cabinet need not be bound by it, but Tory rule in these regions, as in local government generally, has for 13 years been chaotic and costly. Some consensus on new subsidiary democratic institutions in the United Kingdom is desperately needed.

Such review is well-illustrated by the government's own stance in favour of subsidiarity in Europe. The prime minister now has a clear mandate to pursue his distinctive approach to a Europe of nation states. As recent reports in *The Times* have indicated, Maastricht is starting to unravel in one EC country after another, as politicians and businessmen realise its true implications. Britain has no interest in undermining European co-operation to the detriment of 1993 and the promotion of the internal market. But Britain does have an interest in unravelling Maastricht's centralism, its interventionism in industry, its higher taxes and social costs and its restricting of Europe's regional economies by fixing prices of commodities and currencies.

Since the prosperity and openness of the Western European economy holds the key to the revival of capitalism in the East and in the Third World, it is hard to think of a more crucial task in the realm of foreign affairs. That task is concentrated on the British presidency of the European Community in the second half of this year. To have deprived Mr Major of the chance of such leadership would have been cruel indeed. Instead the electorate has added to his authority. He is well suited to all these tasks. They begin today.

LABOUR'S RECKONING

Neil Kinnock woke up on Thursday morning confidently preparing for the highest office in the land. He went to bed condemned almost certainly to life as a backbencher. Seldom can hope have been raised so high or dashed so utterly. Yet he has few excuses. The election could not have been fought on ground more favourable for an Opposition. The government was wracked by a recession in part of its own creation. Labour had done everything over seven years to make itself electable, shedding its millstone policies of public ownership, unilateral disarmament and high public spending. But it achieved a swing of little more than 2 per cent nationally. Redistribution will cost the party up to 18 seats at the next election, cancelling out nearly half of last night's gains.

Yesterday predictable left-wing cries were heard that the party drop "designer socialism" in favour of something more fundamental. Few of the party's potential new leaders have any truck with that. The rout of left-wing socialism and communism across the world has happened because such a socialism is not rooted in people's financial ambitions for themselves and their families. This election was almost certainly lost because many floating voters did not believe even the new Labour party had shed this shonking. The priority of individualism over collectivism is not a quirk of temporary fashion. The left in Britain has yet to come to terms with this. It must or it will surely die.

Despair is a poor counsellor. Labour lost, but the devastation of its loss was partly a consequence of expectations of victory boosted by Britain's clearly inadequate public opinion polls. Recession was not necessarily Labour's ally: in hard times, voters kept a hold of their Tory nurse for fear of Labour proving worse. Labour gained more than 40 seats compared with 1987. It has put on 1.5 million votes at each of the last two elections, won 11.4 million votes this time compared with 9.2 million in 1983. It seems probable that only a severe late swing to John Major among uncommitted voters stopped Mr Kinnock entering Downing Street.

Labour's first task is to tackle its leadership. Mr Kinnock came through the campaign a decent man, energetic and brave, who had brought his party back from the brink. But he was never a match for Mr Major as a plausible prime minister. He has now failed twice as a vote-getter and seems bound to resign. John Smith, shadow Chancellor and current heir apparent, regularly outstripped his leader as the public's preferred prime minister. Mr Smith, or Gordon Brown from the younger generation, could yet cause Mr Major trouble.

Mr Smith must do more than just take over his party. He must show that he has

heard the voters' verdict on his apparently vote-losing alternative budget with its tax burden on higher incomes. Labour dare not again appear as the party of penal taxation of the moderately well-off. Such archaism merely loses it not only the votes of the wealthy but also of those with middle incomes who aspire to be high earners. The electorate may tell pollsters that they prefer high public expenditure, even if it means higher taxes. But in the privacy of the booths, the cross clearly goes the other way.

The future of the left in Britain is no longer just about the fate of the Labour party. It now embraces the Liberal Democrats and many supporters of the nationalist cause. Even in a more classless society, there is a role for a broad party of working class "empowerment", of an alternative non-metropolitan establishment, and of radical redistribution. The Conservatives in their highly centralised state have left a gap for such a movement. Its philosophy would centre on devolution, subsidiarity and local autonomy. It would be greenish, pro-women and ethnic minorities.

But the most urgent and difficult issue facing the left is that of the institutional relationship, or lack of it, between the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties themselves. Under the pressure of a hung parliament, it was clear that any possibility of a coalition government would have been between these two rather than with the Conservatives. There was evidence in Thursday's results of some tactical voting, with Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters backing whichever party had the best chance of throwing out the Conservative.

The leaders of the two parties have to decide whether they wish to fight each other year in year out, possibly condemned for another generation to opposition, or to start a process which brings them closer together. Leading Labour politicians such as Jack Cunningham and Robin Cook were yesterday beginning to hint at their common ground with the Liberal Democrats, notably on electoral reform and proportional representation. More will be heard of this, though any agreement will remain academic as long as neither party can gain power under the existing electoral system.

Formal alliance is not practical at present. But there is no reason why Labour and Liberal Democrat parties locally should not carve up towns, cities, even counties between them, as some Liberals and Conservatives did earlier this century. Such deals are best reached locally. They are a recognition of the identity of policy and interest between groups of voters locally. They institutionalise tactical voting by sharing out its spoils. At present, they offer the only hope of any party ousting the repeatedly victorious Conservatives.

Why Labour lost, what the Conservatives must do

From Lord Shawcross

Sir, Now that the election is over the inquest is in full swing. May I, writing still as a crossbencher, add my nonagenarian note?

I believe a basic reason for Labour's humiliating defeat was that Mr Kinnock had forgotten Abraham Lincoln's dictum that whilst "you may fool all of the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, you cannot fool all of the people all of the time".

The Labour party chose as its basic issue the National Health Service and it was based on a lie. There is no doubt much that is wrong with the health service. It may be that the Tory government's present policy for it is mistaken. But the general public knew very well that Labour's statement that the government intended to "privatise" the service was untrue.

On polling day there were two main whole-page advertisements in the newspapers. The Labour party's own advertisement called on voters to "vote today to save the NHS" — this in enormous letters — and added: "This election is a referendum on the National Health Service".

The second advertisement — one of a series — was by Nalco, the trade union desperately anxious to regain its measure of control over the NHS, depicting surgeons round an operating table asking the patient: "Will that be cash or credit card, sir?" Both these advertisements were basically untrue and thoughtful voters resented them.

Second, but possibly more fundamental, point was the rapidity of Mr Kinnock's conversion from socialism to social democracy. I was myself converted but my conversion occurred whilst I was a member of a socialist government, actively concerned in administration and anxious that we should remain efficient.

Over the four years of actual experience, especially in the comparatively short time I was in charge of trade and industry, I came to realise that nationalisation and centralised controls simply were not working, and said so. I saw the light 40 years before Mr Kinnock. Mr Kinnock's conversion took place after three defeats at national elections.

It is not so long ago that he said he stood by clause 4 in the Labour constitution, which still requires nationalisation of the means of production, transport and exchange. Nor since he condemned going into Europe or maintaining nuclear defences. The electorate perhaps smelt a whiff of opportunism about this sudden conversion.

This was an election about many wide issues with worldwide recession and other grave international problems. Mr Kinnock was carefully shielded from dealing with them. But where in all these four weeks was the Shadow foreign secretary?

The electors realised that the election was far more than a referendum on the NHS. The majority of them were not fooled and have voted for honest controversy. Yours faithfully, HARTLEY SHAWCROSS, House of Lords, April 10.

From Mr Michael Rowan

Sir, It is not a strange paradox that the poll tax, which was being blamed by Conservatives for their poor showing in the opinion polls, is now being blamed by Labour for having inhibited their potential voters from registering (report, later editions, April 10)? Clearly an ill tax which does no one any good.

Yours truly, MICHAEL ROWAN, 80 New Kings Road, SW6, April 10.

From Dr Eric Macfarlane

Sir, Among all the post-election analysis and evaluation one message comes through clearly and strongly: no party that seeks to appeal to the nation's conscience is electable in the current climate of materialism and self-interest.

Yours faithfully, ERIC MACFARLANE, Berkeley House, Church Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke, Hampshire, April 10.

From Mr Richard Lamb

Sir, On BBC television on the night of the 1995 general election David Butler, after hearing the first four results, was able to give an accurate forecast of the actual Conservative majority, much to the surprise of Richard Dimbleby. He used a pocket calculator.

Last night the first five results showed a swing to Labour of 2 per cent. This made it clear to most people who understood the political game that the Conservatives would have an overall majority.

Yet not for another two hours did the pundits agree that this would be so. They appeared mesmerised by the exit poll and a strange computerised swingometer operated by Peter Snow.

The BBC should use more common sense and less science in making predictions based on early results.

Yours truly, RICHARD LAMB, Knighton Manor, Broadchalke, Salisbury, Wiltshire, April 10.

From Mr Hugh David

Sir, At every significant moment during the BBC's all-night general election results coverage, my cat was spectacularly sick on the carpet.

May I, through your columns, announce his availability as a pundit in any future election programmes? Yours, HUGH DAVID, 374 Albert Square, SW8, April 10.

For a national health service for the nation. In all those instances, when the government's proposals appeared it was fears about the direct interference with the practice of medicine that led to opposition from the association.

Ironically, the medical profession frequently shares the same aims and objectives as government. Sadly, we frequently feel bound to oppose the way a government seeks to implement these aims.

The BMA will continue to promote and support change, but only where there is evidence that this will lead to an improvement in the care of patients and the service to the public as a whole.

Yours faithfully, ALEXANDER MACARA (Chairman, annual representative meeting), British Medical Association, BMA House, Tavistock Square, WC1, April 8.

Politics and business

From Mr F. R. Hyde-Chambers

Sir, Peter Riddell's point (article, March 31) about the reluctance of those in business to become involved in the democratic process highlights a problem which the (non-partisan and non-lobbying) Industry and Parliament Trust was specifically founded to address. Over 800 senior executives have undertaken parliamentary study programmes during the past four years. Ten parallel and independent schemes have been set up in other European countries, Scandinavia, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

While people are willing to be involved in issue politics, fewer and

fewer participate in party politics and political interest is regarded in a wholly negative light by those in business. A declaration on political service, aimed at changing this negative attitude, was launched by the trust at Speaker's House in November, with the support of the Speaker, the Lord Chancellor, the party leaders, and 40 chief executives of major enterprises in the private and public sectors. It states:

... we believe that it is essential for the health of the democratic process that political service be regarded as part of community service.

Yours etc, F. R. HYDE-CHAMBERS (Director), Industry and Parliament Trust, 1 Buckingham Place, SW1.

teachers, to the future of the 16-19 provision and to the relations between the maintained and independent sectors deserve more far-sighted consideration than the expediencies of electoral propaganda have allowed.

The education of children is not, in its more important aspects, a matter of politics and should be susceptible to a deeper and more thoughtful analysis, at a level where thinkers of differing political persuasions might even find common ground.

When the educational debate is polarised by political factionalism, it is also poisoned by it. As in war, the first victim is the truth.

Yours faithfully, DOMINIC MILROY, OSB, Ampleforth College, York, April 10.

The questions relating to standards, to the status and morale of

schools and teachers the prospect of "more of the same" will cause, in certain significant areas, widespread dismay and anxiety.

The prime minister has already and rightly stressed that he intends to serve the whole nation, not only those who voted for him. It is too much to hope that he will consider very carefully the complex messages being conveyed to him by the teaching profession? Could one perhaps suggest a time of truce, during which the needs of the children would be put first and the ideologies of the politicians second?

Children, teachers and schools need a period of calm, allowing for solutions to the several problems which have been aired in your columns to be properly researched and carefully introduced.

Yours faithfully, DOMINIC MILROY, OSB, Ampleforth College, York, April 10.

Weekend Money letters, page 48

'Philistine' deal on County Hall sale

From Sir Hugh Casson

Sir, All lovers of London and of County Hall will welcome the letter (March 30) from Sir Ian McLeod protesting at the scandalous decision of the government to allow the sale of this magnificent building to its highest bidder, irrespective of its future use — in this case conversion into a luxury hotel.

Never mind that a "get-out clause" permits a new government to pull out of the deal after the election (report, March 24): Mr Heseltine's consent lies firmly in the tradition of Tory aesthetic policies.

Both the construction of the Hilton Hotel in Park Lane in 1958 and the demolition of the Euston Arch in 1962 were authorised by Conservative ministries, over-riding the strongest objections expressed by the Royal Fine Art Commission; and it has only just been revealed that Crosby Hall, the 15th-century building now on Chelsea Embankment, once owned by Sir Thomas More, was secretly sold four years ago for conversion into a private house.

This familiar combination of philistine judgments and secretive deals is, I suggest, an insulting underestimate of our feelings for the buildings and spaces we enjoy.

Yours faithfully, HUGH CASSON, 6 Hereford Mansions, Hereford Road, W2, April 2.

Orchestras defended

From the Chairman of the South Bank Centre

Sir, Richard Morrison's piece (Life & Times, April 8) about the London Philharmonic Orchestra's forthcoming residency at the Royal Festival Hall reported "dismal box office figures" for the season. Despite the recession, sales for the four main independent orchestras (excluding the BBC Symphony Orchestra which he singles out) have risen this season by around 10,000 tickets and average attendances for these are up 2 per cent to 72 per cent. The loyalty of our patrons is due not just to the quality of our programming but also the variety.

The "special treatment" he mentions of the Philharmonia Orchestra is stipulated in the 1990 Tooley report which was commissioned by the South Bank board. It recommended the London Philharmonic for residency and also made it clear that the Philharmonia and regional orchestras would enjoy special status.

With three performance venues, the Hayward Gallery and dance and literature events the South Bank Centre has a far wider view of the arts than the orchestral scene. It takes a breadth of vision to make a world-class arts centre rather than simply a first-class concert hall. Indeed our aim is to avoid the kind of routine musical programming often found in New York. The South Bank Centre's variety is the envy of arts centres across the world and one of its greatest strengths.

Richard Morrison says that Birtwistle has been "banished" and suggests that adventurous programming is out. He will be relieved to hear that we have two new Birtwistle commissions in the next concert season. Six performances of Birtwistle's opera *Van Tan Tethen* will be given in September. There will also be an entire Birtwistle festival in 1996.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN CORRY, Chairman, The South Bank Centre, Royal Festival Hall, SE1, April 9.

From the Managing Director of the Philharmonia Orchestra

Sir, There is no prospect of the Philharmonia Orchestra being "squeezed" by the London Philharmonic Orchestra as the terms of the Tooley report the Philharmonia enjoys a planning agreement with the management of the Royal Festival Hall which enables the orchestra to promote a subscription season of 45 concerts, fully rehearsed in the hall. At least half the concerts fall on prime mid-week dates.

I believe Richard Morrison is being unduly pessimistic in his comments on the choice of repertoire available to the London public. The Philharmonia's 1992-3 subscription season, to be announced on May 8, is as exciting and innovative as any in Europe. In addition to Brahms, it includes the world premiere of Harrison Birtwistle's piano concerto, commissioned by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Yours sincerely, DAVID WHELTON, Managing Director, The Philharmonia Orchestra, 76 Great Portland Street, W1.

Charity begins . . .

From Mrs A. E. Owen

Sir, I agree with Mrs Sweeting (April 6) about donations to charities. I never include my name and address, so that I won't be inundated with letters asking for money.

However, one charity I sent a donation to actually wrote to me through my bank, asking them to forward the letter on to me. I then had a letter from the bank asking me for £5 for administration costs.

Yours faithfully, A. E. OWEN, 5 Shearbrook Lane, Goostrey, Cheshire, April 6.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Education standards

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, The biggest single threat to the welfare of the children in our schools has come from the excessive politicisation of educational goals and methods. Rapid and sometimes ill-considered change has been compounded recently by a political rivalry which has distorted the true purposes of educational debate.


The result of the election might suggest that the dangers of such a distortion will recede. This is much to be desired but, unfortunately, can by no means be guaranteed. Amongst

schools and teachers the prospect of "more of the same" will cause, in certain significant areas, widespread dismay and anxiety.

The prime minister has already and rightly stressed that he intends to serve the whole nation, not only those who voted for him. It is too much to hope that he will consider very carefully the complex messages being conveyed to him by the teaching profession? Could one perhaps suggest a time of truce, during which the needs of the children would be put first and the ideologies of the politicians second?

Children, teachers and schools need a period of calm, allowing for solutions to the several problems which have been aired in your columns to be properly researched and carefully introduced.

The questions relating to standards, to the status and morale of



OBITUARIES

GÜNTHER ZUNTZ

Günther Zuntz, emeritus professor of Hellenistic Greek at the University of Manchester, died on April 3 aged 90. He was born on January 28, 1902.

GÜNTHER Zuntz was one of the youngest of that group of emigrants of Jewish descent who were forced to leave Germany in the 1930s and who did so much to professionalise British classical scholarship. His most important contributions to learning were in the fields of Greek tragedy, Greek religion, and the textual criticism of the Greek New Testament.

Zuntz was educated at the Bismarck Gymnasium in Berlin, and at the universities of Berlin, Marburg, Göttingen, and Graz. He was a pupil of, among others, such eminent scholars as Willamowitz and Eduard Fraenkel. He held no university posts in Germany, becoming a gymnasium teacher.

He left Germany in 1935, working for four years on Byzantine music for the *Neumen* project in Copenhagen. The fruit of this work was the publication (with C. Hoeg) of the six parts of *Prophetologium* (1939-71). Like many other emigrants he spent the war years in Oxford, becoming librarian of Mans-



field College in 1944. In 1947 he was appointed senior lecturer in Hellenistic Greek at Manchester; he became a reader in 1955 and was elected a fellow of the British Academy in the following year. It was not until 1963 that the university saw fit to appoint him to a personal chair, which lesser men occupied the Hulme Chairs of Greek and Latin. In his 37 years at Manchester one of his colleagues was another emigrant, the Latinist Otto Skutsch.

Zuntz's appointment at Manchester was divided between the department of Greek and the faculty of theology. One of his duties was the teaching of elementary Greek to theology students, a task he performed with en-

thusiasm. He hoped to publish a text book based on his course, but no British publisher was interested. After his retirement, however, he was able to develop a German version of the course, and use it at the University of Tübingen. The text-book (in three volumes) appeared in 1983 as *Gräechische Lehrgang* (an English translation is imminent). Zuntz wrote in the preface that he regarded it as more important to provide an access to Greek antiquity than to write learned books about it; otherwise there would soon be nobody to read such books.

In the 1950s Zuntz turned his attention to Euripides, publishing *The Political Plays of Euripides* in 1955. The book is, in fact, concerned only with the *Suppliants* and the *Heracleidae*, and, despite the title, Zuntz argued that Euripides was not concerned to make political propaganda. Rather, in his view, the plays of a whole were designed to have an impact on the audience in the circumstances of the times they were performed. His belief that the two tragedies were great plays did not, unsurprisingly, command universal assent.

Ten years later came *An Enquiry into the Transmission of the Plays of Euripides*, which showed Zuntz at his best. By the most detailed study of a 14th-century manuscript in the Medicean library at Florence he showed that a second manuscript of slightly later date was a copy, not a ruin, of the first manuscript. He established that a corrector, already identified as Demetrius Triclinius, annotated the manuscript on three separate occasions, and that the copy was made after only the first set of corrections had been entered.

Two years after his retirement Zuntz published *Persephone*, a large book dealing with three separate but inter-related topics — the evidence for the cult of the great goddess in Southern Italy, Sicily and Malta, the fragments of Empedocles's *Katharmoi*, and the "Orphic" gold leaves now preserved in London and Naples — relics from the ancient world containing religious verses. The Hellenist Walter Burkert described it as "a rich, an astonishing book".

Zuntz continued to write in his eighties, publishing short works on Greek metre and on a puzzling inscription from Eleusis dedicating a statue of the Greek god Aion for the power of Rome and the permanence of the Eleusinian mysteries.

He married, in 1947, Mary Alison Garratt. They had two sons and a daughter.

KONSTANTIN SERGEYEV

Konstantin Sergeyev, Russian dancer and choreographer, died in St Petersburg on April 1 aged 82. He was born in the same city on February 20, 1910.

ACKNOWLEDGED in the 1930s as a dancer-actor of exceptional power, Konstantin Sergeyev later became director of the Kirov Ballet. He upheld the traditions of the classic dance as he inherited it from his illustrious predecessors in his stagings as in his performances he guarded and enhanced the academic disciplines that lie at the heart of the Kirov Ballet's greatness.

Konstantin Mikhailovich Sergeyev started his dance studies at the Leningrad ballet school in 1924, and he proved so receptive and able a pupil that before graduating he had taken part in an extended tour of Russia with a ballet ensemble organised by Joseph Kshessinsky. His gifts of elegant style and technical bravura won him principal roles in the troupe, but in 1929 he returned to Leningrad to complete his schooling, and on graduation joined the ballet company at the Maryinsky Theatre.

In his performances during the 1930s his nobility of manner and impeccable stage presence were matched by a quest for dramatic verities in every role. Much of the repertoire then being created in Leningrad provided ideal roles for Sergeyev as hero. He was the Romeo to Ulanova's creation of Juliet in Lavrovsky's production and played the leads in Zakharov's *Count of Bakhchisarai*, *Lost Illusions* (after the Balzac novel) and *The Bronze Horseman*, based on the poem by Pushkin.

In the traditional classics he brought a searching intelligence to the portrayal of those often two-dimensional princes who sustain the ballerina. Sergeyev expanded and ennobled the heroes of the old



Konstantin Sergeyev with his wife Natalia Dudinskaya in *Giselle*

ballets, seeking to expose the psychology of their actions and the dance expression of their personalities. As Albrecht in *Giselle* and Siegfried in *Swan Lake* he was notably influential in establishing character and technical style, and he further set a magnificent example in the sensitivity and sympathy of his partnering. Grateful ballerinas have recorded the security and accord which they felt in dancing with him. He played these classical roles from the age of 18 until he was 50 — an exceptionally long span.

Sergeyev turned to choreography for the Kirov Ballet in 1946 with the first Leningrad staging of Prokofiev's *Cinderella*. This was one of the works the company brought to London and he was successfully revived in St Petersburg last year for the Prokofiev centenary. He created

further works in the correct socialist-realist style of the period with *Path of Thunder* and *The Distant Planet*.

As a choreographer Sergeyev was content with the classic academic language. His recensions of the classics — *Raymonda*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *Swan Lake* — were probably his most lasting contribution to the ballet repertoire. The two Tchaikovsky ballets were twice director of the Kirov Ballet, 1951-56 and 1960-70, his periods of service marked by "political" upheavals, not least with the decisions of Nureyev and Makarova to remain in the West. But it was under his guidance that the Kirov Ballet made its first revelatory visits to the West, and the magnificent qualities of the ensemble and its stars, testimony to a uniquely beautiful classic training, were tribute

to his distinction as leader of the ballet.

When he quit the direction of the ballet in 1970, Sergeyev continued to serve the company and school, acting as a member of the theatre's executive and as artistic director of the Vaganova School, where his wife, the ballerina Natalia Dudinskaya, was a principal teacher. Their joint careers, from the dazzling days of their theatrical partnership to the years in which they guided and shaped the destinies of Leningrad's dancers, were of real significance in the history of the Kirov Ballet. Their son Nikolai also became a dancer.

Sergeyev was made a People's Artist of the Russian Republic in 1957, won three Stalin prizes and a Lenin prize and last year was given the distinction, Hero of Socialist Labour.

BASIL GARNONS WILLIAMS

Basil Hugh Garnons Williams, former headmaster of Berkhamsted School, died on March 15 aged 85. He was born on July 1, 1906.

BASIL Garnons Williams followed a distinguished line of headmasters at Berkhamsted, the Hertfordshire public school whose most famous old boy, the late novelist Graham Greene, was unhappily educated by one of them — his own father Charles Henry Greene (1911-27).

Garnons Williams was a tall bespectacled Welshman whose regime as headmaster lasted from 1953 to 1972, an unusually long spell in those times. It enabled a period of great stability and expansion. At Berkhamsted he confronted huge problems and dealt with them in a courageous, rational and sensitive manner. New buildings were raised and the chapel was embellished by the addition of a gallery to complete the architect's original design. The cost of these projects was mostly borne by the generosity of benefactors but it was Garnons Williams who attracted their gifts to the school.

More important than buildings were the school's achievements in learning and in sport. Numbers in the school only rose from 600 to 744, but significantly they doubled in the sixth form: awards at Oxford and Cambridge gained new heights. Although he was himself no games-player, Garnons Wil-



liams knew the importance of sport in a school and gave it full encouragement. He founded the rowing club in 1959 and the school later won the Public Schools Challenge Cup at Marlow. Above all, he ensured that the atmosphere at Berkhamsted was friendly, cohesive and purposeful.

Garnons Williams was born into a Breconshire family with strong traditions of service in the church. He was a classical scholar at Winchester and at Hertford College, Oxford; and his scholarly aptitude and his love for the

classics manifested themselves throughout his life.

His first post was as head of classics at Sedburgh, from which he moved to Marlborough in 1935. At the end of the war he was appointed headmaster of Plymouth College and eight years later went as headmaster of Berkhamsted School, where he stayed until his retirement.

Headmasters at Berkhamsted may claim to have helped mould their school's future distinguished alumni. Under Charles Greene the three Greene brothers, Graham, Sir Hugh and Doctor

Raymond emerged; so did Sir Peter Quennell, Claud Cockburn, Professor Sir Colin Buchanan and Lord Fiske. These were Berkhamsted's golden years.

Garnons Williams had his own share of successors but it is still too early to decide on eminence. Richard Mabey, the countryside author, certainly maintains the school's literary traditions. Robin Knox-Johnston and Michael Meacher were two others who came under him.

His retirement was marred by the long and painful illness of his wife, Marghi, who bore it with great courage. He looked after her with total devotion. Yet, under this strain, he completed two deservedly acclaimed school histories, of Berkhamsted School itself and of Berkhamsted School for Girls.

In recent years he returned to live at the scene of his educational supremacy, later in a council old folks home. He was a familiar sight in Berkhamsted high street, tapping along with his white stick as blindness took over.

Brash present-day pupils of his old school brushed past him unaware of the significance he had once played in their school.

But perhaps the saddest moment was when someone stopped to ask him if he had seen his name in Graham Greene's official biography, "I'm afraid I cannot read," said the classical scholar sadly.

THE RIGHT REV CHARLES CLAXTON

The Right Rev Charles Robert Claxton, Bishop of Blackburn, 1960-71, has died aged 88. He was born on November 16, 1903.

FEW bishops live to enjoy 21 years of retirement ministry. Charles Claxton set about that part of his life with the warmth and vigour which were so much in character. After retirement from the see of Blackburn in 1971 he worked for a short time as rector of Ficksburg in the diocese of Bloemfontein, South Africa, with which Blackburn is linked.

He was also in retirement an assistant bishop in the diocese of Exeter, confirming and caring for many parishes in interregnum. Active ministry

continued after that when he moved to Prestbury in Cheshire.

Ordained in 1927, he was soon recognised for his energy and in the immediate post-war years was a member of the group which produced the report *Towards the Conversion of England*. In 1946 he became Suffragan Bishop of Warrington and in 1960 went to Blackburn.

He was a partner in the founding both of Lancaster University and of St Martin's College and he championed the retention and improvement of church aided schools. His membership of the Transport and General Workers Union and the Bishop's Luncheon for Industrial Leaders were symbols of his concern for the world at work.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Rupert Bursell, QC is to be Chancellor of the diocese of Bath and Wells.
The Rev David Almonorth, Rector, Gt. Ouse and St. Andrew, is to be Rector of St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
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The Rev Raymond Stilling, Assistant Curate, St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Assistant Curate of St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev St. Edmunds, Vicar, is to be Vicar of St. Edmunds.
The Rev Malcolm Bull, formerly Assistant Curate, St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Assistant Curate of St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev Peter Brinklow, Vicar, St. Peter's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Vicar of St. Peter's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev David Almonorth, Rector, Gt. Ouse and St. Andrew, is to be Rector of St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev Alan Archer, Priest-in-charge, St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Priest-in-charge, St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev John Ball, Vicar, Dunham-on-Would, is to be Vicar of Dunham-on-Would.
The Rev Peter Brinklow, Vicar, St. Peter's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Vicar of St. Peter's, Gt. Ouse.
The Rev Anthony Bamford, Curate, St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse, is to be Curate of St. Andrew's, Gt. Ouse.
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The Rev David Almonorth, Rector, Gt. Ouse and St. Andrew, is to be R

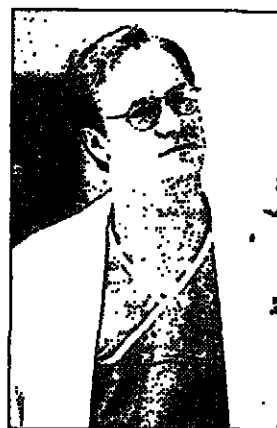
FILM

LA BELLE NOISEUSE (15): Jacques Rivette's hypnotic exploration of a painter and his model, struggling to complete an abandoned canvas. Close to a masterpiece. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin, Emmanuelle Béart. (11-837 8402).

LA BELLE NOISEUSE — DIVERTIMENTO (18): Fascinating two-hour digest of Jacques Rivette's epic about the painter, his model and an unfinished canvas. With Michel Piccoli, Emmanuelle Béart, Jane Birkin, Emmanuelle Béart. (11-837 8402).

BUGSY (18): Warren Beatty as Bugsy Siegel, the gangster who invented Las Vegas. Sexy, witty, dazzling to behold. Starring Annette Bening, director, Barry Levinson. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

CAPE FEAR (18): Martin Scorsese's ferocious remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Robert De Niro, Jessica Lange. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 2772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Incisive: William Hurt as Dr. K.

THE DOCTOR (12): Calous surgeon (William Hurt) goes under the knife and becomes a better person. Director, Randa Haines. Barbican (071-352 8891) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666) Odeon West End (0426 915574) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (15): Krzysztof Kieslowski's brilliantly filmed conundrum about two girls (one Polish, one French) who seem to share a life. With Irene Jacob, Philippe Volter. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

FINAL ANALYSIS (15): Psychiatrist Richard Gere falls for a patient's sister (Kim Basinger) and gets more than he bargained for. Overwrought melodrama.

EVENINGS OUT POLLY DEVLIN AUTHOR



The amazing theatre group, Théâtre de Complicité, is doing *A Winter's Tale* at the Lyric Hammersmith. It's a fascinating play, and the set designer, Arianne Gastambide, decorated my children's bedrooms, so it's an added bonus that someone whose work I really admire is doing the sets.

Apparently *The Double Life of Veronique* is the most marvellous movie. Irene Jacob is a brilliant actress and the Polish director Kieslowski is a great film-maker. I'm also going to see *Baron Fink*. I think the Coen brothers are geniuses. Everyone says how empty their films are, but I don't care. If you can film and cut like that you can be as empty as you like.

director, Phil Joanou. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Mollie Hill Coronet (071-727 6705) Plaza (071-497 9999) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES AT THE WHISTLE STOP CAFE (12): Heart-warming lives of feisty folks down South. With Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Stuart Masterson; director, Jon Avnet. Odeons Haymarket (0426 915353) Kensington (0426 914666) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

HIGH HEELS (18): Lukewarm, talkative melodrama of family secrets from Spain's master of camp, Pedro Almodóvar. With Victoria Abril, Marisa Paredes. Gate (071-727 4043) Lumière (071-836 0891) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) The Hill (071-435 3366).

HOOK (U): Grown-up Peter Pan returns to Neverland to fight Captain Hook. Much kid-pleasing spectacle, but little magic. With Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman; director, Steven Spielberg. Barbican (071-638 8891) MGM Baker Street (071-935 2772) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Marble Arch (0426 914501) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

KIKUICHI (15): Days in the barren life of a laundry attendant. Quietly hilarious minimalist fare from Japanese comic-strip illustrator Kenji Iwamoto. KCA (071-930 3647).

KURFS (15): Immature police protection officer (Christian Slater) brother. Flashy but feeble cop comedy. Director, Bruce A. Evans. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031).

LIGHT SLEEPER (15): Lugubrious elegy to the Eighties drug scene from writer-director Paul Schrader. With Willem Dafoe, Susan Sarandon. Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

THE MAGIC RIDDLE (U): Playful jumble of fairy-tales by Australian cartoon-maker Yoram Gross. Odeons Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915683) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

MEET THE FIBBLES (18): Odeon Muppet-style puppet movie, aimed at adults, entirely lacking in humour. Directed by New Zealand's Peter Jackson in 1990. MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Pantons Street (071-930 0631).

MY OWN PRIVATE IDAHO (18): Gus Van Sant's quirky portrait of two drifters searching for a home: striking but aggravating. With River Phoenix, Keanu Reeves. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Screen on the Green (071-226 3520).

THEATRE

LONDON

THE ALCHEMIST: Jonathan Hyde and Philip Voss head a grand cast in Jonson's satire, transferring to a larger stage after last year's sell-out at the Swan. Barbican, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

ANGELS IN AMERICA: Thrilling performances in Tony Kushner's fascinating state-of-the-Union drama on AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues, Wed, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm.

BACK UP THE HEARSE AND LET THEM SNIF THE FLOWERS: The art of the salesman: William Gaminara's comedy points out the tricks but simplifies deeper issues. Hammersmith, Swiss Cottage Centre, Avenue Road, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness. Choreographed, directed and staged by Billy Wilson. Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

CUT AND TRUST: Crisis in the NHS: latest of Patrick Prior's hit or miss political comedies. Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (018-534 0310). Preview Mon, 8pm, opens Tues, 8pm, then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

THE DARK RIVER: An accomplished revival of Rodney Ackland's 1937 drama about nativity and nostalgia in an England drifting towards war. Directed by Sam Walters. Queen's Theatre, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Ariel Dorfman's Chilean political drama (with a new cast from April 18). Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

ELEPHANTINE: Three generations of clever women, expert in spelling but emotionally subdued. Refreshing play by Lee Blessing, subtly acted. Greenwich Studio, Prince of Orange, 188 High Road, SE10 (081-858 2862). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sietes songs. Boulevard, Walker's Court, off Peter Street, W1 (071-437 2661 after 2pm). Mon-Sat, 8.15pm, Fri late show, 10.30pm, mat Sat, 6pm.

GOOD ROCKY TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics. Great stuff. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue (071-839 4401). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

HEARTBREAK HOUSE: Paul Scofield and Vanessa Redgrave head Trevor Nunn's splendid cast in Shaw's timeless, state-of-the-art drama. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

HENRY IV PART 1: Julian Glover, Robert Stephens and Michael Hordley are among those playing in Adrian Noble's stirring production. Barbican, Silk Street, SE1 (071-638 8891). Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat next Sat, 2.30pm.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: Trevor Nunn's engrossing production: David Haig fatally tempted by Claire Skinner in Freud's Vienna. Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-620 0411/928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 2pm.

PYGMALION: Frances Barber as Eliza, Alan Howard as Higgins, in Shaw's play about the value of speaking proper. Directed by Howard Davies. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tonight, Mon, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm.

I STAND BEFORE YOU NAKED: Ten monologues for women by Joyce Carol Oates: dry, comic, tragic, recounting the perils of sexual harassment and desire. Admirably staged. Directed by Sydney Blake and designed by Gail Shaw. Offstage Downstairs, 37 Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (071-267 0457). Tues-Sun, 8pm.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst, Neil Dargish and Carmel McHenry in likeable comedy about a doting mother's



Give him a big hand: Dustin Hoffman stars in *Hook*, directed by Steven Spielberg

worries, notably her gay son. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

THE VIRTUOSO: Shadwell's Restoration comedy of bad behaviour, directed with verve by Phyllida Lloyd. The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2pm.

A WOMAN KILLED WITH KINDNESS: Saskia Reeves in Heywood's Yorkshire tragedy: Katie Mitchell's first RSC production is a vivid creation of country life. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews tonight, Mon, 7.30pm, opens Tues, 7pm, Wed, 7.30pm.

REGIONAL
EDINBURGH: Last week in the Traverse Theatre's old premises before it moves to become the Usher Hall's new neighbour. *Your Turn to Clean the Star*: a murder mystery set on a tenement stair, Traverse, Grassmarket (0131-226 2653). Tues-Sun, 8pm.



Sarah Miles writes and stars in *Oxford*

OXFORD: *Charlemagne*, intriguing first play by Sarah Miles starring herself and Greg Hicks as a married couple whose love survives surprising hazards, including a sex change. Old Fire Station, George Street (0865 794494). Opens Wed, 7.30pm, then Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON: David Thacker directs Samantha Bond in *As You Like It*, his first production in the big theatre. Meanwhile in the Swan, Paul Jeffson plays a rich man turned beggarman in Richard Brome's *A Jovial Crew*, set during the English Civil War. Max Stafford-Clark directs. Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Swan (0789 256263). *As You Like It*: previews from Tues, 7.30pm, opens April 22; *A Jovial Crew*: previews from Mon, 7.30pm, opens April 21.

DANCE

STARS OF THE BOLSHOI BALLET: Thirty dancers from the Bolshoi form a mini-company which launches a 14-week British tour with a royal gala charity performance at London's Dominion Theatre on Monday. There are two programmes on offer for the week-long season, comprising Act 1 of *Swan Lake* and a selection of divertissements in the first, Giselle Act II and various other popular pas de deux in the second. A sampler for the full Bolshoi main event, bringing its production of *The Sleeping Beauty* to London for a week-long season. The sets and costumes are not as attractive as they could be, but the company is notable for its younger talented dancers.

SAATCHI'S WALLS Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, next Sat, 2.30pm.

ANNE TERESA DE KEERSMAEKER: The Turning World season of European dance opens with the experimental Belgian choreographer who brings her company *Rosas* to the South Bank for two nights. Her new production, *Achterland*, sets out to probe "the hinterlands of gender relationships" and is performed to the music of György Ligeti and Eugene Iyas. Later offerings in the festival will be presented at The Place Theatre. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tues, Wed, 7.45pm.

JUAN MARTIN AND HIS DUENDE FLAMENCO DANCE COMPANY: Martin's company of ten flamenco dancers and musicians performs dances and songs including alegrías from Jidde, fandangos from Huelva, and the flamenco Rumba in a lively evening show. Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891), tonight, 7.45pm.

CLASSICAL
HANDEL'S MESSIAH: The premiere of Handel's *Messiah* took place in Dublin on April 13, 1742. For this 250th anniversary performance in the same city, Sir Neville Marriner will conduct the Orchestra and Chorus of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields joined by a prestigious group of soloists: Sylvia McNair, Anne Sofie von Otter, Michael Chance, Jerry Hadley and Robert Lloyd. The Polytechnic, Dublin (0103 531 363633). Mon, 8.30pm. Tickets also on sale at Stargreen Box Office, 20-21 Argyll Street, London W1 (071-734 8932).

MORE HANDEL: The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Harry Christophers, give another commemorative performance. The edition the performers will use has been newly prepared by the veteran Handel scholar Harold Watkins Shaw. Grand Theatre, Blackpool (0253 28372), tomorrow, 7.30pm. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891), Mon, 7.45pm. Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021-212 3333), Wed, 7.30pm.

CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The orchestra under Daniel Barenboim gives the second of its London concerts. The programme features the first British performance of the Symphony No 1 by American composer John Corigliano. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), tonight, 7.30pm.

OPERA
THE FIERY ANGEL: Edward Downes conducts the Covent Garden premiere of one of

Prokofiev's greatest — and leastst operas. Directed by Opera Factory's David Freeman, this is the first co-production with St Petersburg's Kirov opera to be staged in the UK. A strong first-night cast includes Sergei Leiferkus, Galina Gorchakova, Peata Burchuladze and Robert Tear. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066). Tues, Wed, 8pm.

ERMONINI: The Rossini bicentenary celebrations have been somewhat muted so far, at least when compared to the overall of last year's Mozart anniversary. What Elder makes amends tomorrow night when he conducts *The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* in the second of two concert performances of *Ermonini*, a powerful and uniquely neglected work based on Rossini's tragedy *Andromache*. The singers are Anna Caterina Antonacci, Gloria Scalchi, Keith Lewis, Bruce Ford. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800), Sun, 7.45pm.

MADAM BUTTERFLY: Graham Vick's elegant production of *Madam Butterfly* with Stefano Lazzarini's much-limited minimalist designs, makes yet another welcome return to the Coliseum. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161), Wed, 7.30pm.

ROCK
SALT 'N' PEPA: A one-off concert from the sassy pop rappers who hit a high with their "Let's Talk About Sex" single. Brinsford Square, London SW9 (071-326 1022), Mon, 7pm.

PELE: A mix of tenebrous, infectious pop and stringing lyrics from this Liverpool band warming up for a full-length tour. Marquee, London WC2 (071-437 6601), Tues, 7pm. Hammersmith, London W14 (021-472 0196), Wed, 8pm.

SID GRUFFIN: Best known as the force behind the *Now* flyers — the band that kicked country awake with its gritty, raw sound — Griffin looks set to create some lively guitar magic. All Saints (Acoustic Room), London NW10 (081-961 5490), today, 8pm.

JAZZ
ARTURO SANDOVAL: The legendary Cuban trumpeter who defected to America in 1950 is currently playing homage to another great horn player, Clifford Brown, the subject of his emotional new album, *I Remember Clifford*. Ronnie Scott's, Birmingham (021-643 4525), today, 8pm.

LOVE HAPPY (Video Collection) Cinema Club, U: Originally conceived as a solo vehicle for Harpo Marx, then Chico, Groucho, and a young Marilyn Monroe crept in. Hardly a riot of laughs, but essential viewing for Marx Brothers aficionados. Director, David Miller, 1949.

MORTAL THOUGHTS (Columbia TriStar, 15): Brutal blue-collar hubby gets his throat slashed; wife and best friend have blood on their hands, and the police on their tail. Stylish, brooding drama, with strong female performances (Demi Moore, Glenn Headly), plus Bruce Willis. Director, Alan Rudolph, 1991.

THE RESCUERS DOWN UNDER (Buena Vista, U): The star mice from Disney's 1977 *The Rescuers* return to rescue a kidnapped boy. Unambitious cartoon feature which should keep the children captive, 1990.

EXHIBITIONS

TOSHIKATSU ENDO: A leading figure in Japanese contemporary art, Endo has recently been recognised also in the West, particularly after his appearance at the 1990 Venice Biennale. This show is entitled "Earth, Air, Fire, Water", suggesting the simplicity and directness of his work, and reminding us that setting his materials alight has been a favourite technique. It is partly philosophical, recalling sacrifice and cremation, and partly visual, delighting in the rich textures which result. Also showing the minimal canvases of the Scot Callum Innes, streaked and stained and oddly haunting. ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0493). Daily midday-9pm, opens Thurs until May 24.

WH SMITH ILLUSTRATION AWARDS: In 1988 the booksellers WH Smith set up an annual award for published British illustration. This show, which coincides with the announcement of this year's winners, is a retrospective of earlier prize-winners and other entries. In all cases the original art work is shown along with its published form. The styles range from the roosted traditional to the boldly experimental. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-938 8361). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun, midday-5.30pm, opens Wed until June 7.

UNIQUE AND ORIGINAL: During its 20 years of existence the Glasgow Print Studio has built up an enviable reputation as one of the most lively and enterprising centres for print-making in Britain. It has benefited from its location, persuading many of the younger Glasgow figurative painters, such as Peter Howson, Ken Currie and Adrian Wisniewski, to make prints for the studio. It has also enlisted older and more established Scottish artists like Eduardo Paolozzi, Elizabeth Blackadder and Bruce McLean, and some exotics like Roberto Gonzalez Fernandez and Boris Beeky. High time for this impressive retrospective. Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8891). Daily, midday-7.30pm, opens Wed until May 17.

VAN GOGH IN ENGLAND: There is no great undiscovered English period in Van Gogh's painting to match the wonders of Brabant, Paris, Arles and St-Remy. But the time he spent in England, 1873-76, was extremely important for his subsequent development, opening his eyes to the social realist work of illustrators and of painters such as Herkimer and Fildes, as well as Gustav Doré's grim views of contemporary London. This show fills in the background, with examples of the British art which fascinated the painter and an impressive array of documents. It also includes ten important Van Gogh paintings. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 4141). Mon and Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6.45pm, until May 4.

TURNER — THE FIFTH DECADE: The Core Gallery's surveys of Turner's career in temporary exhibitions is cross-crossing the ground, working sometimes by theme, sometimes by period. The period covered by this latest is 1830-40, during which Turner was at the height of his powers and fame. The drawings and watercolours included show much technical experiment, the completion of some of the previous decade's major projects, like the *Picture Gallery Views in England* and *Marine Views of the River of France*, and his astonishing coverage of the Houses of Parliament in 1834. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, Sun 2-5.30pm, until May 10.

SALEROOMS

MONDAY: Old Master drawings at Sotheby's, 10am, with works including Charles Parrochia's *Three Galleys Sailing in red chalk*, Bartolomeo Passarotti's *The Lamentation*, and a sheet of figure studies, circle of Rubens 1630s-1640s, estimated between £6,000 and £8,000. The sale is followed by Old Master and later prints at Phillips, 1.30pm.

TUESDAY: A day of rival attractions in the London rooms. An archive of radio signal messages from the Titanic (up to £20,000) is in a sale of maritime items, ship models and paintings at Christie's, South Kensington, 10.30am and 2pm, while particularly rare Jacobite glasses, one of which is estimated up to £40,000, are in the British ceramics and glass sale at the same times at Sotheby's. Phillips offer English furniture —

including an archaic velvet 8½ model — at 11am, and Bonhams, one of the same at 2pm. Christie's are expecting the best part of £500,000 for their 57 recently discovered drawings by Fuseli. 3pm. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (071-581 7611).

WEDNESDAY: With the passing of the Chalmersley Holborn to the National Gallery, the stars of Christie's spring Old Master picture sale are now Rembrandt and Canaletto, with *David and Cyrus* and *The Old Horseguards* from St James's Park. In neither case are the auctioneers venturing an estimate, 11am and 2pm. In a Godalming sale Hampsons range from musical boxes to suits of armour by way of byzantine crosses, 10.30am.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY: Sotheby's have a two-part weaponry sale, with modern and vintage sporting guns in London on Thursday, 11am, and antique weapons and militia in Sussex at the same time on Friday. Sotheby's (as above).

BOOKINGS
MAD, BAD AND DANGEROUS TO KNOW: Derek Jacobi plays Lord Byron in an autobiographical drama on the life and works of the English poet. The show is a two-hour devised and directed by Jane McCulloch. Isla Blair plays the women in Byron's life. Ambassadors Theatre, London WC2 (071-836 6111), from May 26 for a six-week run.

KNEBORTH '92: Claiming it to be the rock event of the year, Genesis has announced two shows at the Park over the weekend of August 1. The concerts will feature tracks spanning the band's whole career and 17 albums, and boast the biggest ever computerised lighting rig. Knebworth Park, Hemel Hempstead, Herts (071-587 1414 or by post from Genesis Box Office, PO Box 77, London SW4 9UH).



Promotional dates: Joan Armatrading

JOAN ARMATRADING: With a self-produced album set for a May release, the singer follows it up with a 22-date tour in June. Leicester Polytechnic (0533 515511), 2. Keele University, Stoke-on-Trent (0782 21111), 3. Woughton Centre, Milton Keynes (0908 671664), 4. USA, Norwich (0603 56161), 5. Queen's Hall, Bradford (0274 392712), 6. Morogate Avenue, Chester (0244 380444), 7. Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow (041-227 5511), 8. City Hall, Sheffield (0742 722885), 10. Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021-212 3333), 11. Regent Theatre, Ipswich (0473 281480), 12. Mayflower Theatre, Southampton (0703 333001), 14. Colston Hall, Bristol (0272 223682), 15. St David's Hall, Cardiff (0222 371256), 16. Hammersmith, London (0754 591591), 17. Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851), 18. Sands Centre, Carlisle (0228 25222), 20. Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712), 21. Royal Centre, Nottingham (0602 482525), 22. Royal Hall, Harrogate (043 564433), 23. Apollo, Oxford (0685 244544), 24. Dome, Brighton (0273 674357), 25. Hammersmith Odeon, London (081-748 4081), 26.

Film: Geoff Brown; Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; Classical Music and Opera: Jan Brunsell; Rock and Blues: Stephen Osborne; Dance: Debra Crane; Exhibitions: John Russell Taylor; Videos: Geoff Brown; Bookings: Karl Knight; Salerooms: Huon Mallieau

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Little gems in the compost heap



Lynne Truss forks over Friday night, a bare-ish patch nourished only by the attentions of Geoff Hamilton of *Gardeners' World*

REVIEW

For people who never go out, Friday evening at 8.30 is an important, make-or-break time of the week. Having watched television from Saturday to Thursday, the dreary stop-at-home reaches Friday in a parched and ragged state; and she inevitably looks to Friday's programmes as a source of mental refreshment. "O, for a draught of vintage that hath been cool'd a long age in the deep-delv'd earth," (She waxes Keatsian.) "O, for a beaker full of the warm South..."

A bad drought on a Friday, then, is a terrible disappointment, and leaves her wondering aloud what domestic lime de-scaler tastes like. "That I might drink," she sobs, rather pointedly, "and leave the world unseen".

Thank goodness for *Gardeners' World* (BBC2), then. Barnsdale is where the weekend starts in my house — which is odd, really, for someone who has never knowingly set hand on mulch. The thing about *Gardeners' World* is that it somehow stands outside the normal television experience, and operates perfectly as a personal stamina restorative. Its effect is calming and inspiring at the same time. For 30 minutes, all one's cynicism about the collective death wish of bedding plants is swept aside on a tide of compost and confidence.

Geoff Hamilton takes a cutting from a lupin, prunes it to within an inch of its life, pokes it into a red flowerpot filled with brown stuff, and knows it will live. What a man. I particularly admire the way he always has a polythene bag to hand when he needs one.

The announcement a few months ago that *Gardeners' World* was to receive a "new look" from an independent production company left its fans with mixed feelings, and a few anguished questions. Would the larky old diddle-diddle-dee theme music go? (It went.) Would last year's strange and ghastly planting tips from Nigel Colburn bite the dust? (They did.) Would there still be lots of close-ups of Geoff cheerfully pruning those innocent lupin-cuttings, and saying "And there's a job well done"? (Yes. Hooley.) And would Geoff's rugged, all-weather bow-legged jeans (which could surely stride across the plots at Barnsdale without him) get a special "Geoff's Jeans" slot of their own? (No. Sadly.) The

changes for the new series (now in its eighth week) can perhaps be best divined from the new-look title sequence. Instead of the old flower-heads dancing jauntily in the breeze, we now have cool green garden geometry to the sound of classical guitar — overhead images of gardeners on curved paths, or a child running past a segment of round pond. It looks a lot more sophisticated (more BBC2, if you know what I mean), but its main purpose, I think, is to humanise the garden: it reminds you that lupin propagation is not an end in itself. The problem with the work ethic of Geoff and Co is that they are always so busy planting things and digging them up again that they never have time to think green thoughts in a green shade.

So the new series includes more stuff about the look, feel and smell of gardens, supplementing the familiar nitty-gritty items about — well, nitty-grit. Persuading Geoff to sip mint tea in a deckchair is going to be a trickier job, because I fear he will always be jumping up to toss compost on a plothole.

Recently, there was a shot of him lounging awkwardly on the edge of a raised bed (what a pleasant place to sit, he beamed insincerely), but you could tell he was unhappy with this enforced idleness. He couldn't wait to dart off and sort out his tomatoes. "No time to relax today," he said quickly, springing up with a whoop of relief. Nice of him, though, to pretend for our benefit that he ever relaxes at all.

My theory about the perpetual motion of Hamilton is that he dare not stop for fear of taking root and turning instantly into a tree, like something out of Ovid. There is already a detectable tell-tale woodiness; and let's face it, such supernatural gardening powers are bound to exact a price.

Lately he seems to have toned down his usual exclamations of "Exactly right!" and "Perfect Love!" when checking his jobs, and has started pretending to be fallible — for example, in admitting to a misplaced cherry tree, or declaring himself stumped by the problem of mice burrowing under his crouches.

Either someone has mentioned that it is not good manners to be right all the time, or he is placating the gods. He doesn't want to end up as Geoff-in-the-Green, just yet



The Truss theory of gardener Hamilton's perpetual motion: he dare not stop for fear of taking root and turning instantly into a tree

(even if the transformation would make fantastic television).

Of course, *Gardeners' World* is really a magazine programme with lots of features; Geoff's struggle against metamorphosis makes up only a smallish part. This year, there is an on-going story about a family in a south London suburb who are attempting to reconstruct a Gertrude Jekyll garden (with almost no data to go on, unless a helpful viewer finds the original plans in a kitchen cupboard). There are also book reviews, plus the usual visits to growers and celebrities where the brief expertise of Dr Stefan Buczacki has been traded in for the more ooh-lovely reactions of Liz Rigby. The most homey item of the eight weeks involved Martyn Lewis and a bucket of lion dung, but I'll say no more.

On the more progressive side, there is a new "Cook's Garden" feature in which Lynda Brown tells us to grow shallots, garlic and fancy

lettuce, blissfully unaware that she is probably alienating many of the fuddy-duddy *Gardeners' World* audience, who don't believe in mucking about with food.

King Edward's are clearly not good enough for this young woman, who recommends eating grated beetroot with your pork chop. Perhaps *Gardeners' World* is trying to muscle in on Channel 4's fashion-victim *Digi* audience. I doubt that in previous seasons we would have seen a man set light to a bush just to raise its scent.

Meanwhile, the real shock of the new series is the plain speaking of gardener Christine Walkden, who tells us to tidy up alpine when they start to look poxy.

But however widely *Gardeners' World* may roam, Barnsdale is its heart and fascination: Barnsdale, with its epic symbiosis of man and landscape. So much to do, so little

time. The man is a miracle. A few niggling questions are bound to present themselves: why should one bloke want such a lot of plants? Who does the watering when he goes on holiday? But the devoted fan sweeps these aside. I no longer even question the usefulness of a 30-second demonstration of potato-planting: I will never grow a potato, probably, so I let it lie.

But I suspect this is the principal pleasure of watching *Gardeners' World* anyway: that it allows you to pretend you are learning something you will never practise. For me, anyway, every horticultural challenge ends with a release. "Now's the time to take cuttings from your something-or-other," announces Geoff amiably (and I think, "Hello, I've got one of those," and start paying attention). "Cut it just below a leaf node, like this," ("Uh-huh," I say, nodding). "Stick it in a bit of rooting powder" (Well, I could always pop out and

get some). "And then dib it into a pot and leave it in the greenhouse at 68 degrees." (Greenhouse? That's torn it. What a shame.)

I enjoy this inter-action, nevertheless. I like to get involved. When Geoff asked us all to have a look for those missing Gertrude Jekyll garden plans I was down to the shed in no time, waving the torch about. When the "Name the Iris" competition was launched, I spent a whole weekend trying to come up with something more interesting than "Festival Crown" (which won). But mostly, I just try to imagine daily life at Barnsdale, and I snatch at clues.

Recently, Geoff was telling us about a new cloche that costs £90, and he let slip a great pearl. "Yes, they are expensive," he said, "but I know I'd forgo a few Indian take-aways." I could hardly believe my ears. Does Geoff Hamilton eat Indian take-aways? He surely never tires of home-grown veg?

PREVIEW

● Sleepers

(Mon and Wed, BBC2, 9pm)
This very welcome repeat of last year's enjoyable, comic spy-thriller stars Nigel Havers and Warren Clarke as two Russian agents sent to England in 1966 (under cover of the World Cup) and then left to "sleep" for 25 years. The scripts are witty, and the general level of comic performance (from Michael Gough, David Calder, Joanna Kanska) quite wonderful. The four-part series has been edited into two episodes of 90 minutes each — "specialty-edited", actually, which sounds a bit ominous. Let's hope they didn't just cut out the jokes.

The joke at the heart of *Sleepers*, of course, was that the two Russian agents had become quintessentially English — Clarke as a family-man and shop steward in Eccles, Havers as a City whizz-kid with a share in a racehorse and expensive tastes in leather upholstery. Thus, the fact that the two actors spoke in normal English accents, played normal English roles and used everyday English argot ("I could kill you, you stupid bastard"), came across as very clever, a tribute to the excellence of their cover. The shared-joke sensation is similar, one imagines, to the effect on Shakespeare's groundlings of *As You Like It*, when they watched a man playing a woman playing a man.

● Noel's Addicks

(Tues, BBC1, 7.30pm)

The billing in *Radio Times* for this new Noel Edmonds series ends with a note: "If you are a collector, or if you are obsessed with a subject, write to Noel's Addicks, BBC Birmingham B5 7QQ". What a marvellous and foolhardy invitation. The programme is looking, of course, for good-sport common folk who can't seem to stop collecting milk bottles or underpants and who are willing to show off their *idées fixes* on prime-time TV. I heard of a chap who collected barbed wire. He is just the person they are looking for.

But they have asked obsessives to write in and it is jolly pleasant to think of the inevitable result: heavy mailbags hurtling Noel-wards up the M1, scorching the landscape as they pass. Ha ha, serves them right. "Dear Noel, There is nuclear fallout in my skirting boards. It comes out at night, and nobody believes me..." "Dear Noel, I have for the past ten years been rather preoccupied by the fact that Gregory Peck and Dirk Bogarde never appear in public together. I think they are the same person, but nobody will admit it..."

If there is such a thing as natural justice, the country's obsessives ought to slow the Noel's Addicks train to a complete standstill, and supper the series before too much harm is done.

L.T.

Sex and the student set

A double murder challenges two young academics tomorrow in the BBC mystery *A Masculine Ending*

Masculine Ending

The BBC schedulers seem to have lost none of their lunatic wit. On Palm Sunday they are treating viewers to *A Masculine Ending* (BBC1) — a Christmas tale from the academic set in Cambridge. The Backs are alive to the sound of music — carols from King's, of course — but a pretty female student from St Mark's is mixing herself a toxic cocktail of barbiturates and booze. Her body is found on Boxing day after complaints about the drains.

Meanwhile, across the Channel, Dr Loretta Lawson — a lecturer from London University who specialises in linguistics, "the nit-picking end of English studies" — is addressing a conference on the subject of the masculine ending in French and German.

When she returns to the Parisian pied-à-terre borrowed from a colleague she discovers that she has been sharing it with a stiff. A visit to her friend Dr Bennet — you name it, I'll deconstruct it — convinces her that the two deaths are connected and thus begins a complicated caper involving the proof copy of a highbrow journal called *Critique*, a photograph of a hunky student and all manner of double-dealing and sexual ambiguity. Confused? You will be. As one of the characters com-



Campus death: Janet McTeer hot on the murderer's trail

ments: "It beats *Neighbours*, I suppose." Leaving aside the over-intrusive music, it is much better than that.

Alma Cullen's screenplay of Joan Smith's novel is directed by Antonia Bird, whose steady career suddenly took flight last year with *The Men's Room*, the hilarious, feminist sex-saga which, according to Bird, split the critics right down the middle. The women were for it; the men were agin it.

Bird was also the first woman to direct an episode of *Inspector Morse*, of which Cullen wrote four episodes. One was

"Fat Chance", which tackled the prickly problem of women priests. Is *A Masculine Ending* — which features a female detective chief inspector — a feminist film?

"It is feminist in the sense that it involves a woman

looking after her own life without depending on a man," says Cullen. "Loretta does not want to go to the police, but she needs to know what happened."

"She sorts out a particular problem using her inner resources and also has a sisterly regard for other women." This is perfectly true, but Dr Lawson's investigations are helped in no small way by the fact that her estranged husband is a newspaper reporter.

"The film is inevitably less feminist than the book," says Bird, "but none the worse for that."

"I think it's impossible to be an intelligent woman in the 1990s and not be a feminist. I've never thought of myself specifically as a feminist director — it's simply a question of the projects I'm offered. I'm attracted to things that are

relevant and that I feel I can add to. I try to protect women in a positive manner."

As played by Janet McTeer and Imelda Staunton, Lawson and Bennet are an engaging partnership. Lawson is slim, excitable and exudes a coltish charm; Bennet is rounded, auntie-ish and funny.

Cullen says: "Loretta is a forthright and cerebral character. She is also a sexy woman with an attractive vein of self-mockery."

One of the most amusing scenes occurs towards the close of the film when Loretta misses out on some vital information because she has her hands full with something else — a student called Jamie — having gained access to his rooms by sweet-talking Arthur, the young porter. It is refreshing to see the female libido being acknowledged — that it is intrinsically comic testifies to its novelty. "A woman's sexuality is just as strong as a man's," Bird says. "It's silly to imagine otherwise."

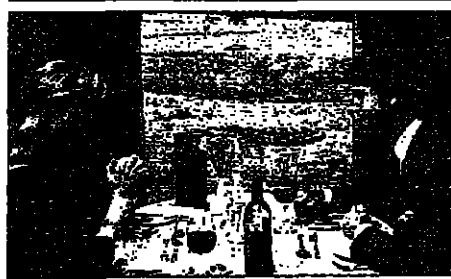
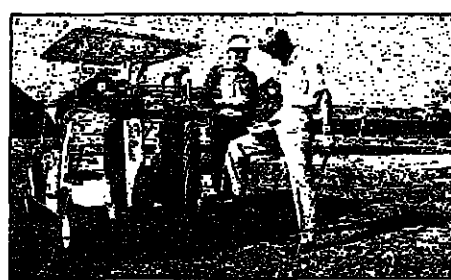
Bird tries to recreate the atmosphere of a repertory company within the cast and crew of a film. The cast of *A Masculine Ending*, which was made for the BBC by First Choice Productions, features Bill Nighy, who appeared in *The Men's Room*; Suzanne Hamilton, who appeared in "Absolute Conviction"; and Burt Armstrong, who was in *South of the Border*.

Smith's novel is set in Oxford, but the action of the screenplay has been shifted to Cambridge. "We thought it would be more interesting for the viewer, more visually refreshing," says Bird.

A sequel is in the works.

MARK SANDERSON

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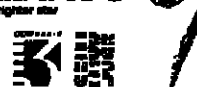
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As women portray Christ in a BBC series, Richard Johnson looks at how film-makers have shown Jesus

The way, the truth and the lies

Jesus Christ the movie star is a man of many faces. Over the years directors have permed his hair, shaved his armpits, given him blue contact lenses, a ringlet beard and a New York accent, and made him into a rock 'n' roll singer. Casting Christ has never been easy, of course, because people have strong ideas about how he should look. But now *The Gospels*, seven adaptations of the 1611 Authorised Version of the Bible starting tomorrow on BBC 1, threaten to revive all the old arguments about making the word flesh.

In the tradition of company storytelling, *The Gospels* divide the roles among the cast. So four actors and two actresses take turns to speak the words of Christ. "It points up a whole range of characteristics in Jesus's character," says executive producer Jack Emery. "The women lend a gentleness and a universality to the character of Christ, but no one actor represents him. With six personalities in the company, the audience is constantly getting a fresh interpretation. It's a new way of saying old words."

This new Jesus illustrates the difficult position of television and film makers. As assorted directors recount in *Jesus Christ Moviestar*, a Channel 4 documentary on Easter Monday, they have merely inherited the church's own living dilemma: how do you portray someone whom many believe is both man and God? The problem was around long before the birth of moving pictures, but they did not help. As Harvey Cox, Professor of Divinity at Harvard, says: "The church felt, 'Who are these guys with cameras and lights to be depicting this figure—the one

we have the monopoly distribution licence for?"

When the British Board of Film Censors was formed in 1913, it imposed two prohibitions on film-makers: no nudity and no depiction of Christ. For a while the son of God tended to take the form of a deep voice off-camera. And when directors were brave enough to introduce an on-screen Christ, he was a white-washed character with no human failings. In D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*, Christ was only allowed to turn water into wine after the film-maker had added a footnote assuring viewers that drinking wine was perfectly acceptable in ancient Palestine.

Audiences soon tired of the bland reverence of films that were little more than religious calendar art. Cecil B. De Mille reacted to this mood change with his belly-dancing Mary Magdalene and zebra-drawn chariot in *King of Kings*. It remained the most glamorous Holy Land until the arrival of star casting. *The Greatest Story Ever Told* studied the deserts with Charlton Heston, Roddy McDowall, Sidney Poitier, Shelley Winters, Telly Savalas and Angela Lansbury, but the film was a dramatic flop. Audiences found it hard to believe in John Wayne as a Roman officer supervising Christ's crucifixion.

The Church did not like glibly Scripturama, or the camp glamour of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Godspell*. But they also objected when Pasolini tried to revert to the Passion Play element of the Bible story with his *Gospel According to Saint Matthew*. By casting economics student Enrique Irazoqui as Christ, and a truck driver from Rome as Judas, Pasolini was trying to create a human climate for



Denys Arcand's *Jesus of Montreal*, with Joanne-Marie Tremblay (left), Lothaire Bluteau and Catherine Wilkening

his Jesus and give the story back to the people. As it was, the Spanish church and Franco's authorities accused Irazoqui of peddling communist propaganda and his passport was confiscated.

The church does not seem to want a Christ actor. Before the first viewing of *Jesus of Nazareth*, Franco Zeffirelli told an interviewer that "Jesus will be portrayed as an ordinary man". He received thousands of letters of complaints from Christians. General Motors backed out as sponsors.

Yet that was nothing compared to the uproar after Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ* portrayed Jesus as unable to resist, at least in fantasy, the ultimate temptation: married life. Willem Dafoe, Scorsese's Christ, knew he might be seen as an outrage. "It's a loaded character. People have lots of ideas that they're going to bring to anything that bears any resemblance to the life of Jesus."

In attempting to reach a greater understanding of the

conflicts recognised in the Bible between the divine and human natures of Christ, Scorsese managed to offend every Christian lobby group. From the Houses of Parliament Christian Fellowship to Mother Teresa, Scorsese was pursued across the world.

Denys Arcand, the writer and director of *Jesus of Montreal*, addressed the problem of casting Christ by stepping back and making a film about an actor who was playing Jesus. He said: "I know enough to know that it is

impossible to write a Jesus story because we know so little about him."

Now *The Gospels* are trying another approach to the same problem: the representation of Christ. But some have already made up their minds. The Archbishop of York, George Austin, condemned *The Gospels* as "insensitive and unnecessary" before he had seen it.

● *The Gospels* begin on BBC 1 at 11.10pm tomorrow. *Jesus of Montreal* is broadcast as part of the *Canada Film Season* on Channel 4 at 10pm on April 21.



Women of the *Sikulu* company: a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus

World apart from reality

THIS South African musical is son of *Ipi Tombi*, which took London by storm in the mid-Seventies. I never saw *Ipi Tombi*, but can only imagine that composer Bernita Egnos, perpetrator of some unbelievably crass and unmemorable songs (which make Lloyd Webber appear like Beethoven), abetted by the jejune lyrics of Gail Lakier, must have been on better form 17 years ago.

Recent clear signs of the crumbling of apartheid seem to have led, as the Starbrites showed at last summer's Lift Festival, to a desire for celebratory, unpolitical theatre in South Africa. But this show, while making vague noises about apartheid, not only shows no sign of political excitement, but exists in a timeless, all-black South Africa of jolly villagers and hedonistic town-dwellers. If the South African Tourist Board had decided to put together a

THEATRE

Sikulu Queen's

musical in the late Eighties, it would surely have looked rather like this.

The story is so naive and uninteresting as to be hardly worth mentioning, but for the record there is a young warrior called Ubhejane who leaves his village in search of his lost father. Not before a prolonged, traditional sending-off ceremony. Quite fun, I suppose, and extremely jolly for what one imagines to be a sad sort of occasion.

Ubhejane is endowed with a certain puzzled dignity by an unnamed actor who might be Joe Mtsamane, but his arrival in the big city is a clichéd dramatic opportunity which hardly acquires the strength of a cliché. The characters who

cross his path, a tall skipping vicar (Linson Mase) and a mobile-phones-toting yuppie, are never developed to the point where they might become individual. As for the women, they remain indistinguishably massed in a smiling, high-kicking and bottom-wagging chorus as a Soweto aerobics class. Xhosa or Zulu maidens.

But surely this show is all about rhythm and energy? In fact, most of the music follows the blandest of contemporary Western idioms, and although some of the drumming and dancing (especially a bizarre gumboot dance performed by the men) is exciting in a disembodied way, real energy is connected with emotion and not just spectacle. This is pretentious, inauthentic black South Africa for white Westerners and, to me, vaguely offensive as well as boring.

HARRY EYRES

WITH *Deadly Serious*, a clever spoof of Hitchcock films, Matthew Bourne's dance company is fulfilling the title it took when starting five years ago: *Adventures in Motion Pictures*.

Also, having hit the jackpot with *Spitfire*, a witty popular parody of ballet dancing, Bourne has developed a flair for taking off different cultural institutions. Last year's *Town and Country* included a *Brief*

encounter sequence, now we have a whole evening evoking remembered screen images.

He and his colleagues divide the evening into two parts: black and white at first, costumes and setting alike, with colour kept until after the interval. The second half is a bit of a letdown, with less sustained action and tension.

Peter Benedict's production imaginatively uses the space

THEATRE

The Criminal Prosecution and Capital Punishment of Animals Diorama

details into his play but shows little skill in lending the events an air of reality. The cases are certainly bizarre, with a dog in attendance in the well of the court to represent his fellow animals, but the motives of the humans stay risibly sketchy. Since counsel for the prosecution (neatly played by Charles Grant) and his opposite number share chambers, the whole business looks like a legal racket but we learn nothing of their beliefs or animal volition.

Peter Benedict's production imaginatively uses the space

within the glass-domed Octagon of the Diorama, placing peasants at the upper windows which serve as the gallery of the courtroom or houses overlooking the market. Acoustically, however, the place is no good at all, alive with disturbing echoes.

With the shortcomings of the dialogue, the production only really works when the characters are dumb. Rory Finley-Day tossing his mane of hair as Euclid the Amazing Calculating Horse (hanged for witchcraft) and Ricci Harner's affectionate hound. But the scene where this creature is tortured to extort a confession of sodomy is one of unrelieved nastiness, tempting thoughts of the criminal prosecution and capital punishment of authors.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Such a beastly business

Fun with movie memories

DANCE

Deadly Serious The Place

Film buffs spot innumerable multiple allusions. Every-one must get the stabbing from *Psycho*. Rebecca is a



Annie Lennox: she seems not to have taken advantage of her new-found freedom to extend herself musically

Solo shots and initial efforts

In 1985, Annie Lennox declared (in tandem with Aretha Franklin): "Sisters Are Doin' It For Themselves". The song was a forthright espousal of female solidarity which chimed perfectly with the independent mood of those times, even if it was written and performed with the help of her Eurythmics partner Dave Stewart.

Now, at last, Lennox really is doing things for herself. Of the 11 songs on her first solo album, *Diva* (RCA PD 75326), released this week, she wrote eight herself.

Two others were collaborations (with The Blue Nile and Peter-John Vettese) while the final cut is a reprise of the post-war League of Health and Beauty theme song, "Keep Young and Beautiful", a lyric loaded with the innocent barbs of an era when the very concept of "sexism" was yet to be evolved. "It's your duty to be beautiful if you want to be loved."

However, Lennox has not taken advantage of her new-found freedom to extend herself musically; quite the reverse. With its airless synth-pop arrangements and studio-bound feel, *Diva* sounds disappointingly like an early Eurythmics album, but without the crisp, melodic spring in its step.

There are one or two nice tunes, notably the hit single "Why", and Lennox sings with her usual imperious authority. But too much of the album is anodyne and predictable and there is a wearying abundance of clichés about precious little angels, little birds flying away, and pavements paved with gold.

Historically, Lennox's most conspicuous contribution to rock's sisterhood has been in setting the new gender agenda. Capitalising on her regal bearing and severe features to produce that famously androgynous image—a sort of David Bowie in reverse—Lennox undoubtedly paved the way for a succeeding generation of handsome

women, among them Tanita Tikaram, Michelle Shocked and k.d. lang.

The latest recruit to this tomboy tendency is P.J. Harvey, a 21-year-old singer and electric guitarist whose name is synonymous with that of her three-piece group. Their debut album *Dry* (Too Pure PURE CDD010) is an extraordinary conflation of jagged guitar motifs, clammy drumming and a wail-like voice that cuts through to the soul like an icy wind.

The product of an insular childhood in the Dorset village of Corscombe, Polly J. Harvey harnesses her unsettling visions to lyrics that are scathing and outspoken. Musically, her band's references stretch from blues to the vogueish end of hardcore, all pinned to a faint but persistent undercurrent of folk. The production on *Dry* is raw and understated—dry, in fact—and for all the pent-up aggression there is a fragility at the core of her music which is utterly beguiling.

In a completely different vein, yet closer to the stark emotional landscape of P.J. Harvey's work than one might expect, are the moody, soul-baring love songs of k.d. lang. She has now reached her fourth album, *Ingénue* (Sire/Warner Bros 7599-26840-2).

Abandoning the new country trappings of her last effort, 1989's *Absolute Torch and Twang*, the Canadian singer has now acquired a passion for sleep, what might be termed *noir* jazz-noir torch songs, many of which require her to strip down to the emotional raw.

Her creamy voice contributes to the smooth, rich texture of the album overall, and some of the ballad arrangements would not sound out of place on a Sinatra album. But her peans to love and sex are voiced with a disarming intensity that belies both the stern look and the surface calm. The sign should read "Beware, new women at work".

DAVID SINCLAIR

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HARRY EYRES

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Flushed with flash

There have always been restaurants, bars, cafés, pubs which have become indissolubly linked with their patrons, which have owed their fortunes to those patrons' fame or infamy, which have given their names to gangs, sets or groups, which have tempted with the promise of exclusivity while admitting all-comers. The names are familiar in some instances: The Algonquin, the Café Royal, Lipp, La Coupole, The Chelsea Hotel, The Colony, The Casseroles, the Coach and Horses. (Surely this Soho public house derives 80 per cent of its income from coach parties seeking Jeffrey Bernard, who is retained by the management on a handsome stipend and replaced in his absence by an indistinct look-alike programmed to grunt "off you ****" whenever a postgraduate student from Ann Arbor moves within three feet of it).

To this august list we must add a new name: the Phoenix Apollo of Stratford East. But I warn you: if you're looking for the sort of person who frequented these other joints you'd better look elsewhere. The Phoenix Apollo is for real men and real women — none of your freelance intellectuals



Jonathan Meades travels to Stratford East to a phoenix that has belly-flopped into the cold ashes of awfulness

and light on their feet artists. The lads here are 150 per cent pure testosterone if you know what I mean. And the girls? Well you only have to look on the wall next to the door. It is covered with photos — not any photos, but personally signed ones of Linda Lusardi, Samantha Fox and many lesser mammals. Wherever you look you will find the likeness of a famous client: any light entertainer who has ever endorsed the Tory party has eaten here. Sit at the bar and Benny Hill smiles at you, and the late Gordon Jackson.

But though their custom is valued, well valued, double valued, they are not the lifeblood of the place. That honour falls to such personalities as Mr Frank Warren the boxing promoter, Mr David Sullivan the soft pornographer, Mr Gazza the liability, Mr Nigel Benn the heavy-weight. Unfortunately Mr Terry Marsh the former fireman is no longer in as often as

he used to be, so we can't ask him what his favourite is. We know what Mr Benn likes — Brontosaurus Steak. I'll return to the food just as it has returned to me, but let us attend first to the decorative appointments.

Pin-up models and sportsmen are self-evidently dependent on their bodies. But this should not of course be taken to imply that they have no brains. Far from it. We have often heard that "..." has a fine footballing brain. And I am certain that commentators on "glamour" photography sessions often exclaim, with Motsonian hysteria: "No mistake, the girl's got a fine modelling brain."

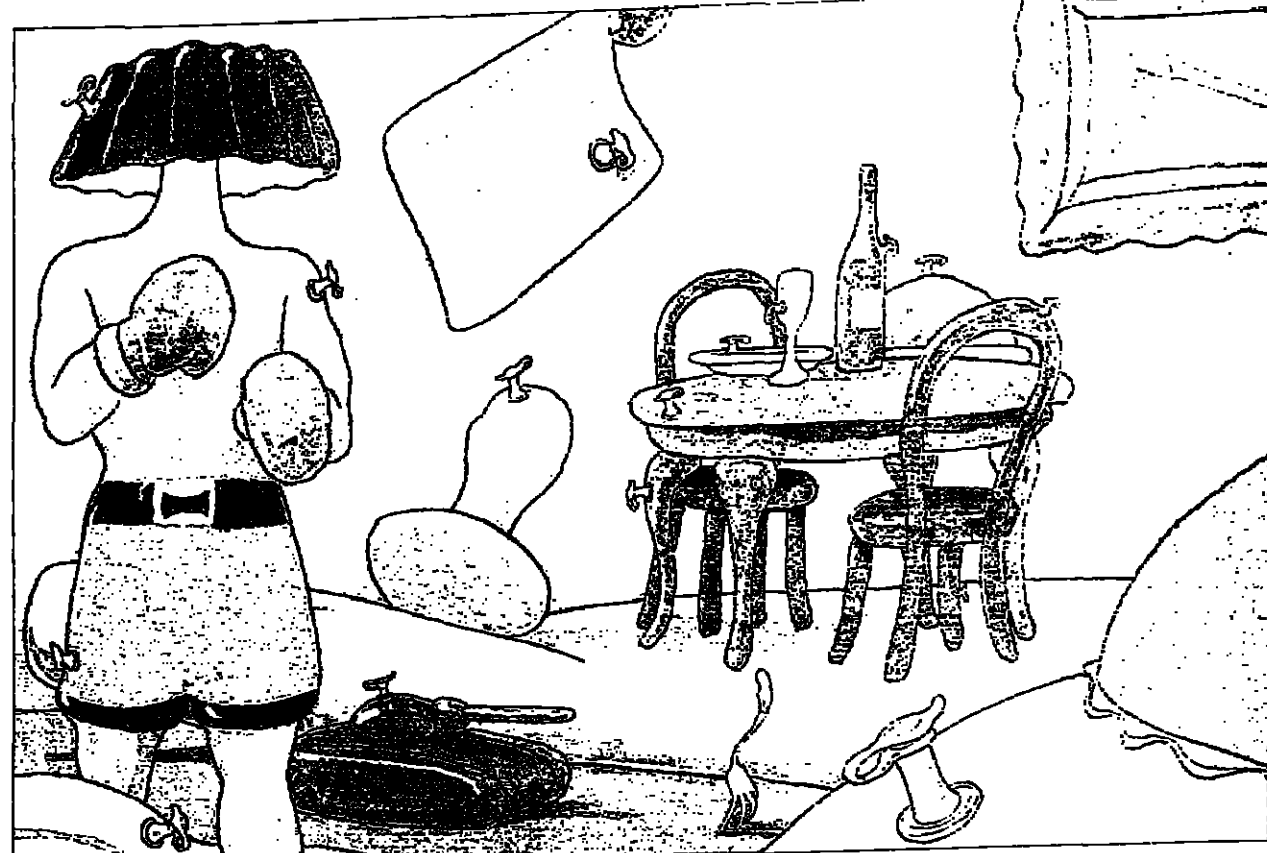
But I do wonder about the discernment and eyesight of these corporeal paragons. I must confess that I had hoped for something rather more exuberant than a standard Tudorbethan home counties steak house. Sure, there are posies of silk flowers every-

where and a couple of chunks of elaborately carved wood. But the overall impression is of a bit and miss essay in Chingford good taste: twee lights, Flatford Mills plates on the walls, chocolate box repros. It's really rather dull.

It lacks the conviction of kitsch. The menu is more promising. A combination of "international", steak-house and Greek. Plus 30 or more flavoured coffees with names such as "Tiramisu [sic] Square — Our tribute to the students that gave everything", and "Suzanne Mizz", "Jonathan King", "KPM and UK Taxes".

Laddish boosters can show off by ordering a 1918 Mottos Koshchid at £1.727. But I doubt if many do: the form, if the next table was one to go by, is to drink vodka through your dinner. But then this table was not occupied by a sportsman and a starlet; indeed it's entirely likely that the fairly normal looking couple (two eyes apiece, all the usual appurtenances) don't even know Mr Gazza.

Having tasted the Barolo I'd ordered and having felt it stripping my teeth and piling my gums with gingivistic real I thought that vodka probably was the appropriate bevy, for



it has no flavour. But I came round to the wine, I saw the point of it. It proved to be a most appropriate complement to the food. Perhaps that's not quite the way to put it: the wine's achievement was to take away the taste of the food. This was a bottle of ace mouthwash, and I was quite

grateful for it. It was needed. Obviously we are often privileged to be admitted to the innermost thoughts of Body People on such subjects as Life, Ideas, War: "I'd like to open a boutique for World Peace." But this being Britain gastronomic opinions are rarely proffered. But I'd never have

guessed that the cream of Theydon Bois and le tout Chingford were quite as indiscriminate as the Phoenix Apollo suggests they are. Many have been up west, to Stringfellow's. I haven't but I can't believe that its grub is at this level. The cooking at the Phoenix Apollo is the worst I've reported on in six years of this column.

Both I and the friend who accompanied me had to spit out several items. The fried potatoes and fried mushrooms were disgusting. Of course the cooking agent wasn't axle grease, simply an oil that imparts a horrible flavour when it's fresh and an even more horrible one when it has been used a few times.

Steak is poor, veal absolutely ghastly, satay desiccated and served with a sauce that bears no relation to the genuine

article: ointment plus grunge. Butter is foil-wrapped Anchor cheese (Danish Blue, plastic cheddar) is the lowest quality imaginable and frozen to boot. The bread must have been made with Polyfilla. Et cetera. £80, please. What was worse than the food was that there was not a single footballer, disc jockey, stunner, professional Cockney, sunder or popular comedian on show. I bin done. I advise readers eager to scrutinise these people to make their visits at the weekend, late at night, and then to restrict their consumption to beer, spirits and nicotine. After all, when we go to the zoo we don't ask to share the animals' food.

Phoenix Apollo
152 The Grove, Stratford.
London E15 0B1-534
6470
Lunch and dinner every day. £80.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only discourteous but illegal to dishonour bookings; that goes for restaurants as well as customers. J.M.

INDIAN

Saloo's
62 Kinnerton St, London SW1 (071-235 4444)
Offshoot of a successful restaurant in Lahore, this is a notable address for carnivores. Though such things as dhal are first-rate, the point of the short menu is meat. Lamb chops, lamb's brains, chicken in butter, there's even water-buff meat in the nan bread. The last is delicious, the prices are high but worth it. If the service is slow it is because dishes are — unusually in a sub-continental establishment — cooked to order. £80 (set lunch £20, set dinner £30). Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Malabar
27 Uxbridge St, London W8 (071-727 8800)
Unusual Indian place which has almost austere décor and a brief menu of rarely seen items. The cooking is hit and miss and such dishes as marinated venison are perhaps better to contemplate than to eat. The most successful dishes are the most commonplace — lamb with spinach etc. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Chutney Mary
525 King's Road, London SW10 (071-351 3113)
This swish outfit bills itself as the world's "first Anglo-Indian" restaurant. How accurately it represents the improvised and culturally colliding kitchens of the Raj is open to discussion. Most of the dishes are interesting, and some are quite good. Mussels sautéed and masala, crab cakes, mutton stew from Kerala, dhal, bread and butter pudding. The service is in definite need of overhaul. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Rami
7 Long Lane, London N3 (081-349 4386/2636)
Perhaps the finest Indian vegetarian restaurant in London. It is not so much the many unfamiliar dishes that impress as the extreme delicacy of the spicing and the differentiated flavours. The deep-fried bhajias are unusually fine, the chutneys are quite unlike those habitually encountered. £30 plus. Lunch Wed-Fri and Sun, dinner every day.

Copper Chimney
13 Heddon Street, London W1 (071-439 2004)
The service is frightful — loud, offhand, unbelievably sluggish. The cooking is good: sea food bouillabaisse, a splendid dhal of black beans, a vindaloo which has nothing but throat-ripping properties in common with the usual dish of that name; okra with chickpeas; tandoori fish. The cocktails are to be avoided. With beer or laasi, £50 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Gopal's
12 Bateman Street, London W1 (071-434 1621/0940)
Smart Indian restaurant with very smart cooking by a chef who has been associated with many of the better "new wave" subcontinental establishments of the last few years. Good "panier" of herbed potato, good tandoori cooked meats, bargain priced thali (£7.95). Nice filling puddings. £30. Lunch and dinner every day.

Aali
149-150 Stoney Lane, Sparkbrook, Birmingham 11 (021-449 0335)
A basic and excellent cafe specialising in a culinary idiom peculiar to Birmingham called balti. It may or may not have originated in Kashmir. Dishes are served in wok-like vessels called karahi. The range of vegetables is extensive and includes mustard leaf which is akin to sorrel. There are also finely spiced meat, poultry and pulse compositions. The roti and nans are as good as you'll find in Britain. No cutlery. Drink laasi, finish with Kulfi. £12 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

PASTA

Billboard Café
222 Kilburn High Road, London NW6 (071-328 1374)
Looks like some sort of video director's idea of an American diner, serves cocktails, plays non-stop pop music, employs gauche waitresses. Nevertheless the basically Italian cooking is quite sound: proper pasta dishes, well made salads, well prepared lamb. £30 plus. Dinner every day, brunch Sat-Sun.

L'Incontro
87 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6371/3663)
Superlative pasta at superlative prices. The place has been rugged by Design in a serious way: the chairs have loose covers to make them like bright beheaded animals. Apart from the pasta the cooking is run of the mill. The wines are hideously overpriced. £85 plus. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

La Fontaine
101 Pimlico Road, London SW1 (071-730 6630)
By no means standard issue Italian corridor of a restaurant which makes worthwhile attempts to break the mould. It makes a big

thing of autumnal fungus and is gifted at shaving white truffle on to risotto. Bottino misso is unspecial, polenta is dreary, pasta with rarely encountered sauces is better. £70 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Wilson's
Market Place, Wilton, Salisbury (0722 744050)
Not exactly a wine bar, but not exactly a restaurant either — a weird and not unsuccessful marriage of the two. It's a useful outfit in an area which is astonishingly poorly served. The cooking is conscientious if occasionally marred by over-ambitious sauces: quite good steak; game pudding; pasta. £20 plus. Lunch and dinner every day (Sunday dinner reservations only).

Old Manor House
21 Palmerston Street, Romsey, Hants (0794 517353)
Beamed dining rooms, unessentially formal yet friendly service, terrific wine list, variable cooking. The simpler, mainly Italian, dishes are a match for anywhere — pasta, risotto with porcini, cotechino with lentils etc. The more complicated and more expensive ones are all right, but nothing more. Stick to the cheaper menus at lunchtime when two can eat well for £45. Dinner is £60 or more. Lunch Tues-Sun, dinner Tues-Sat.

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Enjoy a Roman spring feast



Frances Bissell recreates some of the robust flavours of the Italian capital — and provides a food guide for travellers

The citizens of Rome are well placed to enjoy the Mediterranean diet, unlike the *contadini* of Slough who do not make their own wine, whose Chiltern Chalk circle is not clothed in olive groves, and who do not have a fishing village at the end of the airport runway.

I spent most of a recent visit to Rome combing the food shops and markets, interspersed with visits to *trattorie* and pauses for an ice-cream and a short, sharp burst of caffeine at the excellent *gelateria*.

Piazza Vittorio, my favourite Roman market, the one where the city-dwellers shop and drive a hard bargain, was piled high with *primizie*, the first crops of many greens including spruce-like wild asparagus, heaps of zucchini flowers which, as a Roman speciality, are stuffed with mozzarella and deep-fried, bowls of water containing the pale, green curls of *puntarelle*, chicory shoots which are peeled and then shaved into strands. Served raw with a dressing of olive oil, garlic, wine vinegar or lemon juice and anchovies, they make a marvellously fresh starter.

Artichokes were there in profusion, costing from 600-1,000 lire (25-50p) each — I managed to sample artichoke prepared at least six different ways during my visit.

Salami of all kinds dangle temptingly. The meat stalls take my breath away, *abbacchio* (milk-fed lamb), *capretto castrato* (castrated kid), spinal cord, spleen, brains, liver, tripe, testicles and the Roman speciality *pajata*, which is cooked into a sauce and served with the thick-ribbed rigatoni.

Roman food is robust food, with strong, clean flavours, simple cooking methods, and made from the highest quality ingredients.

It was a Friday when I shopped in the Piazza Vittorio, and the largest queues were at the meat stalls, especially the halal butcher, it being the beginning of Ramadan, which coincided with Lent hence the other jostling queues at the fish stalls opposite.

Writing about it makes me want to go back. A Roman feast for Easter is the solution.

Anchovy Sauce
(makes about 1/2pt/140ml)
2-3 cloves garlic, peeled and chopped
a few grains of coarse salt
2tbsp lemon juice or wine vinegar
freshly ground black pepper
1 small can of anchovy fillets in oil, drained
1/2pt/140ml extra virgin olive oil

Crush the garlic and salt, and mix with the lemon juice and black pepper. Pound or chop the anchovies, and mix in the seasoning and the oil. Not only is this the right dressing for *puntarelle*, it is very good with other crisp or bitter salad leaves and does wonders for an iceberg lettuce. I usually make more than I need for a salad dressing and store the leftover in the refrigerator to be used for the

following recipe, which is excellent with some of the "artisan" pastas, such as handmade *orecchiette*, or other chunky pastas. English sprouting broccoli now in season is the thing to use here.

Pasta with broccoli
(serves 4)
1 small onion or shallot, peeled and chopped
1tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1/2lb/340g sprouting broccoli, rinsed and drained
2-3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
3-4tbsp stock or white wine
1/2pt/70ml anchovy sauce (see previous recipe)
1lb/455g dried pasta
To serve
freshly grated Parmesan

Have a pan of water on to cook the pasta. Gently cook the onion in olive oil until soft. Strip the broccoli sprouts and leaves from the central stem. Discard or peel any tough portions, and slice the main stem. The smaller leaves can be left whole and the larger ones bunched together and cut across into 3-4 pieces. Stir the broccoli on a relatively high heat for a few minutes, stir-frying, adding the garlic as well. Add the stock and cover, letting the broccoli cook in the steam for a few minutes more. Meanwhile, the pasta should be put in to cook for the appropriate time. Stir the anchovy sauce into the broccoli. When cooked, drain the pasta, and fold pasta and sauce together before turning into a heated serving bowl.

Note: If you have dried tomatoes, they combine well with the strong flavour of broccoli and anchovies. Tomatoes in oil can be cut into strips and added with the broccoli. Dry tomatoes can be soaked in a little hot water while you fry the onions, and then cut them up and add to the broccoli.

Carciofi alla Romana
(Roman-style artichokes)
(serves 4)
1 lemon
4 artichokes
a few stems of mint and parsley
salt, pepper
1/2pt/70ml extra virgin olive oil
4tbsp white wine

Remove the zest from the lemon, and cut in half. If the artichokes have long stalks, break these off near the base, and rub the broken surface with the cut lemon to keep them from browning. Peel the stalks down to the tender centre, and drop in a bowl of water to which you have added some lemon juice. Break off the coarse outer leaves, and then the coarse tips of the remaining leaves until you have removed all the tough fibrous parts. Each cut surface should be rubbed with the lemon to prevent it darkening. The choke is dealt with later. There is no need to cut off the leaf tips unless you have artichokes with sharp spiny points to the leaves. We normally get the blunt Breton or Cyprus artichokes in



Britain. Strip the mint and parsley leaves from the stems, and put the stalks, together with some of the lemon zest, in a large pan of water. Season lightly, bring to the boil, and cook the artichokes for 15-20 minutes. Drain, and when cool enough to handle, open out the centre, and remove the hairy choke without removing the tender base, which is the best part of the artichoke. Put the artichokes back in the empty pan, with olive oil and white wine, chopped herbs and zest, keeping a little of the green and yellow back to sprinkle on the artichokes before serving. Cover and cook over a low heat until the artichokes are tender.

Serve in shallow soup plates, scattered with the remaining herbs and zest. Eat with a knife and fork or your fingers. This is the simplest preparation of *carciofi alla Romana*. For a more elaborate version, when the artichokes are part cooked and the choke has been removed, the centre is filled with the same herbs and lemon, mixed with soft breadcrumbs and moistened with wine and olive oil. The artichokes are put back in the saucepan to continue cooking, standing upright so that the stuff-

ing does not fall out. The peeled stalks can be cooked with artichokes and then used in a soup or as a salad ingredient.

I love the Roman use of mint in cooking, as prevalent today as it was during the time of the Roman empire — it has quite converted me to mint with lamb. The following recipe is one I originally devised to go with a roast leg of goat, based on the Apicius recipes. If you can get mature goat, I highly recommend it; otherwise, a leg of lamb will do nicely. I recommend British lamb, which has plenty of flavour and, above all, texture.

Although it has been highly praised elsewhere, I have found Marks & Spencer's chilled New Zealand lamb exceedingly disappointing: little flavour, and so soft that you could eat it without teeth, were my findings after three test dishes. When I raised it with their food technologist, however, he said that for most people, the elements I criticised would be a plus point. Tenderness is the most important consumer requirement of meat, it seems, not flavour and texture. Are we becoming a nation of toothless consumers? I hope not. Consumers need teeth.

Roast lamb with mint sauce
(serves 4-6)
1 leg or loin of lamb weighing 3-4lb/1.35-1.8kg
3-4tbsp extra virgin olive oil
2-3 sprigs fresh mint
1/2tsp freshly ground black pepper
1/2tsp celery seed
pinch of dried oregano
1/2tsp fennel seeds
2 1/2tbsp/70ml good red wine
1tbsp plum or damson jam
2 1/2tbsp/70ml cider vinegar
salt, pepper

Preheat your oven to 200C/400F, gas mark 6. Brush the meat with most of the olive oil. Strip the leaves from the mint, reserve them, and place the stalks on a rack in a roasting tin. Roast the lamb for about one and a half hours.

Put the mint, spices and herbs in a mortar, and pound them. Put the wine, jam and cider vinegar in a saucepan. Scrape in the pounded herbs, and add the remaining olive oil. Bring to the boil, and simmer on a very low heat for 20-25 minutes. Strain into a heated sauceboat, add the skimmed roasting juices, and serve with the roast.

SHOPPING AND EATING IN ROME

● **Open air markets:** Campo dei Fiori, near the Piazza Navona, is one of the most attractive city markets anywhere. Via Lavatore, near the Trevi Fountain, has space for about eight fruit and vegetable stalls during the day. Piazza Vittorio (Emanuele), near the central station and Santa Maria Maggiore, is a large market with food, clothes and hardware. Wonderful spices, pulses and dried fruit, fresh fish, shellfish, meat, dairy produce and salumeria. The fruit, vegetables and flowers are very good quality and 20-30 per cent cheaper than elsewhere in the city.

● **Food shops:** Via Cola di Rienzo, for specialist food shops and *pasticcerie*. It is across the river, directly opposite the Piazza del Popolo and not on the tourist route. At number 19 is Castroni, with specialities from all over the world. It also has an excellent bar. Next door is Franchi, a smaller shop which specialises in pasta, both fresh and dried, as well as cheese, salumeria and made-up dishes. Standa, the cheap and cheerful chain store, is across the road, and this has a decent supermarket.

● **Gelateria:** Giolitti, via Uffici Vicario, Montefiore, via della Rotonda. Della Palma, via Maddalena. Ficco de Neve, via Maddalena. Pellachia, via Cola di Rienzo. The first four are near the Pantheon.

● **Wine shops:** Antica Bottega, via Buconero, via di Ripetta 19-20, near Piazza del Popolo. Trinani, via Goito 20.

● **Restaurants:** These are all favourites, where it seems to me far more Romans than visitors eat. Andrea, via Sardegna 28 (482 1891), just off the via Veneto, near the Porta Pinciana; ask for a table in the front room. A good simple wine list. Apuleius, via del Tempio di Diana 15 (574 2160), on the Aventino, one of the seven hills of Rome, only ten minutes by taxi from the centre. Good, friendly service; closed on Sundays. De Gigetto, via del Porcico d'Ottavia 21a (656 1105). This was the only Christian establishment in the Jewish Ghetto when Gigetto Ceccarelli and his wife opened the Osteria at the end of the first world war. Roman dishes are its specialities, including *carciofi alla giudia*, *rigatoni con pajata*, *puntarelle con salsa alici* and *abbacchio arrosto*. You need to get there early if you want to eat Sunday lunch; not grand or elegant, but homey. Ristorante de Sabatino a San Ignazio, Piazza S. Ignazio 169 (6797821), a few minutes' walk from the Pantheon. You are unlikely to be offered a menu here: say yes to the antipasto misto, which includes excellent Parma ham, suppli, mozzarella and many vegetable dishes; follow it with a pasta of the day, and the fish dish with a pudding or cheese to follow. Expect to spend about 40-50,000 lire a head (£20-£25), and do not confuse the place with the more celebrated Sabatini in Trastevere.

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Buy British, stop the pain

However you voted on Thursday, you can still support the country's future by buying British. I am certainly not advising stepping up consumption of meat and dairy products, but if you are buying them, remember UK provisions for farm animal welfare are better than the rest of Europe has to offer.

The best hope of improvement lies in buying homegrown products labelled as high welfare. But use your wits when interpreting the labels: there is no excuse for being fooled by such evasions as "farm fresh". Look for a description, however brief, of how the animal was reared.

Showing clear consumer preference for such products is the best way to encourage farmers to produce food to more humane standards. Just as important, it gives power to the government's elbow when it comes to welfare negotiations in Europe.

If we do not seem to care what sort of hell livestock suffer, there is little incentive for British politicians to battle uphill against the hostility of the Eurocrats.



Sheep farming has a relatively high welfare profile, and you may think it makes no difference whether you buy British or not. But it does matter: a sudden slump from the expected level of home sales means leftover animals for live export, a horrible trade which we should do all we can to halt.

Every one of these exported animals faces a wretched journey, often more than 24 hours without rest, food or water and exposed to extremes of cold and heat.

So if you eat lamb at Easter, make it British. The traditional way with mint sauce is fine (see Frances Bissell). Alternatively, roast a leg for all but the final 30 minutes, slash to the bone at 0.5cm intervals, push the stuffing (below) between slices, baste well and complete roasting. This mixture is also great for stuffing giant mushrooms.

Mint and mushroom stuffing for lamb
4oz/110g browncap mushrooms
2 cloves garlic
1tbsp oil
2oz/55g breadcrumbs
1tbsp chopped fresh mint
1tbsp grated fresh ginger
juice of half a lemon

Chop mushrooms and garlic finely. Fry in oil over high heat for one minute, stirring constantly. Add all other ingredients. If using dried mint and ginger, halve quantities given for fresh.

Chock full of Easter appeal

Jane MacQuitty on the wines that will tickle the most rabid chocaholic's fancy

Post-election blues or euphoria, plus the prospect of the long Easter holiday weekend ahead call for a glass of champagne. Fortunately, the decent £10 bottle of bubbly is still with us. Drinking champagne has always been an indulgence, doubly so in a recession. But I still think that the slashed price, £10 bottle of bubbly, provided you are selective, is worth it. Good champagne with the right relationship between quality and price is hard to beat.

My favourite bargain-basement bubbly — although like all, it has its ups and downs — has been the l'Hôpital family's J. de Telmont Grande Réserve, not the skinny Blanc de Blancs which is nowhere near as good. Based on an almost 50-50 mix between the region's two fuller-flavoured black grapes, pinots noir and meunier, topped up with a little slimline chardonnay, Grande Réserve's rich, biscuity scent and fruity palate pleases all. The good news for Easter is that Majestic Wine Warehouses has reduced its price to a rock-bottom £9.89 from £11.99. Anyone with a summer wedding or christening coming up should stock up now with this classy, cut-price champagne, discounted until April 20. And don't forget last week's recommended cut-price champagne bargains of Tesco's Paul Letrier Réserve (£8.79) and Sainsbury's non-vintage Brut £10.45 per bottle if you buy two. Both wines are still available.

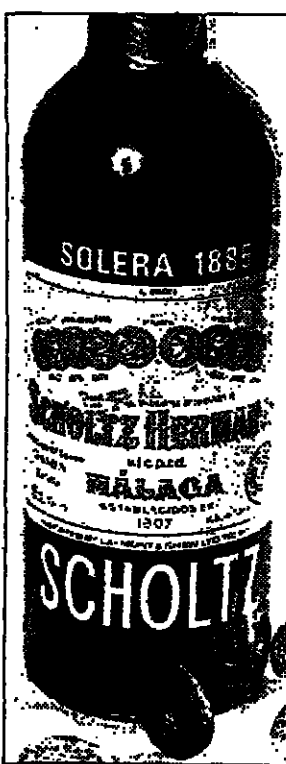
Helpfully, Majestic have several other champagne deals on offer this month. High-profile *grandes marques*

champagnes do not come cheap. But Veuve Clicquot has recently taken a step-up in quality. Its deep, fruity, almost peppery style looks a good Majestic buy priced at £16.45, down from £19.95 until April 20, and even undercuts Oddbins' £17.13, seven bottles for the price of six deal. Less useful are Majestic's discounts on Roederer's rich, honeyed Brut Premier (£16.96, not £19.95) and fresh, apple Laurent Perrier (£14.83, not £17.45).

Again, Roederer's Majestic price undercuts that of Oddbins' seven for six arrangement, as it also does on Oddbins' Laurent Perrier price. However, these prices only apply to Majestic's "Selection" customers: to become one entails getting on to Majestic's mailing list and using a "Selection" card.

With households full of chocolate Easter eggs, rabbits and ducks next weekend, that troublesome question of what wine to drink with them crops up. Wine, despite what the purists say, can and does go with chocolate. As chocoholics no doubt already know, the obvious run of luscious, dessert wines fail miserably when partnered with chocolate: most taste spineless, or overly acidic alongside chocolate, even if it's the lightweight milk chocolate variety and you serve your oldest, finest and most powerful sauternes.

The best bet in the dessert wine spectrum is that delicious 1885 Solera Scholtz Hermans Malaga made from moscatel grapes grown on the dull, sunburnt hills behind Marbella and Malaga in southern Spain. (Laymont &



Best bet: ideal for dessert

Shaw, The Old Chapel, Millpool, Truro £5.99, Waitrose £7.25). Unlike sherry, good malaga works with chocolate because its distinctive scent of roses and unusual, sweet, raisiny palate just about manages to linger on in the mouth, no matter how dark, rich and intensely flavoured the chocolate is. Try a glass of this moreish dessert wine with simnel cake for a special Easter experience.

Also try with chocolate, one of the biggest, bounciest, dry New World red wines from places such as California and Australia.

California seems to have priced itself out of the UK market. So, it was with a range

of good, ordinary Australian reds that I elected to conduct my 1992 wine and chocolate trial. The 1990 Glenloch Shiraz-Cabernet Sauvignon (Oddbins £2.99) with its simple, Ribena-like taste fared well, taking on even a coffee bean-laced praline with ease.

Better still was an impressive 1988 Leo Buring Limited Release Cabernet Sauvignon from Coonawarra, whose ultra-ripe, silky cassis taste coped with every chocolate flavour I put it up against. It is now down from £6.99 to £4.99 at Oddbins.

Easter is not all red wine, chocolates and champagne. So, for those on the lookout for good, inexpensive white wines, sound but limited availability buys this Easter include Sainsbury's new £2.15 1991 Le Paradou, a southern French vin de pays made from the mauzac grape. What separates this white from the pack is its pleasing, spring-like, grassy-apple taste. Finer and pricier is Hugh Ryan's stylish 1991 Domaine de Lian, for once a good Gascony vin de pays, whose zesty, white currant-like flavour should make ideal drinking on the first warm days. (Thresher/Wine Rack £3.35).

Finally, for those who like to be quick off the block, the first 1992 vintage wine, harvested in the Cape's southern hemisphere vineyards at the end of January, has already arrived here. Smart wine drinkers will want to be seen with a bottle of 1992 Gôya Kgeise (Tesco £2.99) on their Easter table.

From the Vredendal co-op, Gôya Kgeise is made entirely from the sauvignon grape and its agreeable, light, grassy taste is best drunk as young as possible. The 1991 vintage is already well past its best and the 1992 vintage will doubtless go the same way.

COUNTRY LIVING

MAY 1992 £1.70

GARDENS FOR DIGGERS AND DREAMERS
22 page special

MARRIED IN MAY
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All you need to be self-sufficient

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Do women make the best jockeys?

THE A-Z OF BEEKEEPING
From hive to honey-pot

GEOFF HAMILTON • DAVID GARLAND

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Friendship clubs for lonely Greens are springing up. Joanna Gibbon investigates the success of gentle touch

The couple, who trained as science teachers, describe themselves as environmentally aware to a degree. "We recycle glass and plastic and we've insulated the

"Many subscribers want to escape London or its suburbs: women particularly dream of a cottage in the country," she says. The agency has found that Scotland has a good supply of men; two women from

Peter, a 34-year-old divorcee, joined Natural Friends last February after his Open University studies put paid to his social life. "I spotted Natural Friends in an OU newsletter," Peter says.

Jane and Andy met for the first time last October after several long

Both are divorced, vegetarians, and neither drinks. "I could never

can't join in," Jane says. But her daughter and I will join the women's clog dancing group. Apparently a lot of couples do that the village."

● *Natural Friends*, 0284 728315.

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Alice adds to a happy black week

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

Almost last the suspense is over, and we can put behind us the weeks of guesswork and nail-biting anticipation. Yes, Alice the Large Black sow has delivered us of a fine litter of nine healthy piglets. In pig breeding terms, a good working majority.

Of course, it is nothing like the landslide of a couple of litters ago when she had 13, but we are not complaining. Her latest labours were accomplished with dignity and composure; with the exception of the usual percussive symphony in which she signals that her hour has come by flinging her cast-iron feeding trough high into the air and letting it fall heavily on to the concrete. The resulting chime would have made even Quasimodo jealous.

She accomplishes it with her powerful but finely tuned snout, which is her principal instrument of government. She has such mastery of it that at one moment it has enough deadly force to raise chunks of three-inch concrete, and yet moments later an escaping piglet will feel its gentle nudge and be deflected back to the warmth and shelter of the sty. Autocratic yet caring, that's our Alice.

And so it has been yet another black week, but a happy one. Last week was overshadowed by the looming black presence of the tarred shepherd's hut. And now I

find this week, apart from the squealing litter of black piglets, a decidedly black-looking parcel arriving in the post which has caused me much excitement, and thrown my family into a deep gloom.

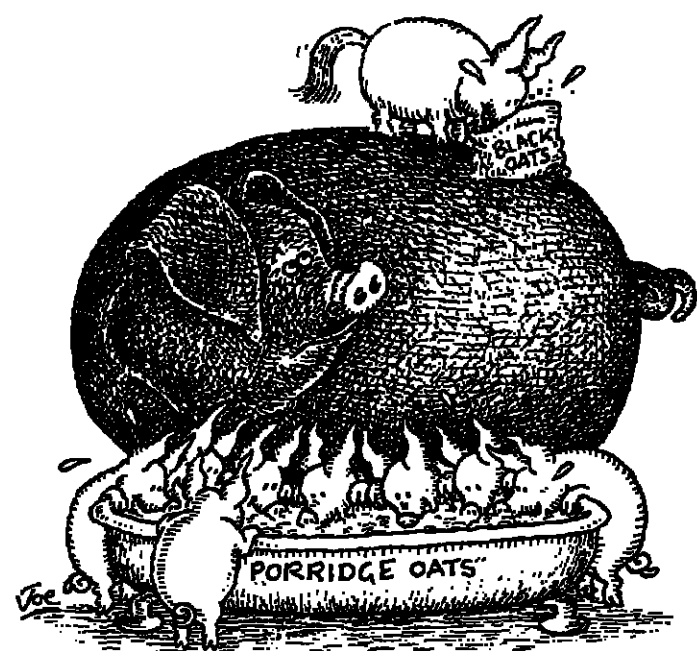
I mentioned some time ago that my unfulfilled ambition was to make porridge by rolling my own oats. It proved impossible, as I could find no way of separating the luscious groats from the indigestible husks. In fact, I now know that I was wasting my time, for a company with the boastful name of Superioats wrote to say that what I should be growing were "naked oats", so called because they have no husk. It would be a simple matter to roll them, carry them to the stove, and live happily ever after. They sent a sample to prove it, and I confess I have never tasted better porridge.

Instead of writing a simple letter of thanks, I set them a further problem. Old horsemen have often mentioned to me that they used to grow a variety of oat called "black oats". "Hell," they would insist, "them black 'ut, them were good grub for 'osses." Apparently, there was no finer feed for the working carthorse than these plump, fattening, invigorating black grains. But



where to find the seed? I asked various merchants but got no response. And when I wrote to Superioats there was no immediate response. This dinosaur of a cereal, I guessed, had become extinct. But last week, a parcel the size of a bag of sweets arrived in the post. Inside were a couple of pounds of precious black oat seed. I gazed into the bag like Howard Carter peering into the tomb of Tutankhamun, and shivered with delight. Where had they been found? Was I holding in my hand the very last few grains of black oats in the world? Alas no. "They're quite common in France," said the man from Superioats. "They grow them for horses. None grown in this country though."

So I intend to correct that sorry state of affairs. My carthorses expect no less of me. It will, of course, take years. I shall plant the few seeds that I have, harvest them and thrash them on the floor of the barn to remove the grain. I shall then sow those the following year, and so on until I have enough seed to plant a crop. It is fraught with danger. One hungry rabbit which happened to stumble across the budding stalks could easily wipe out the whole experiment.



The only thing to contend with now will be the black looks on the faces of my family when I break it to them that, with so little black seed to start with, we shall have to sow each grain by hand. We shall scratch a shallow furrow in the earth with a stick and, in biblical fashion, drop seed after seed faithfully on to the earth. And then pray. But I think it will be worth it.

because my Farmers' Dictionary of 1834 says of the black oat: "... very hardy, ripen early, adapted to profitable cultivation in some of the most tempestuous and least improved districts of Britain". As I am coming to the conclusion that this is the most tempestuous and least improved farm in the whole of Britain, the black oats and I should get on fine.

Events

Midlands angle: About 80 exhibitors display coarse, sea and game fishing tackle, plus fashion catwalks. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021-780-4133). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, 10am-5pm. £5, child £3.

Cheltenham races: Seven events: South Wales Showers Chase 3.25pm. Cheltenham Racecourse (02942 513014). Wed, 2.15pm. £3-£9.

Thames darts: The Devizes to Westminster International Canoe Race. About 700 competitors paddle over the 125-mile course, with the fastest arriving at Westminster Bridge in the early hours of April 18. Couch Lane Bridge, The Wharf, Devizes. Wills (0491 872042, Paul Owen). Starts Fri, 7am.

Bluntyre Park show: More than 1,000 horses compete in 150 classes, including a Western class. Priory Equestrian Centre, Frensham, Surrey (0251 254161). Fri, 8.30am-6pm. £5 per car.

Horsehead jumps: Puckeridge and Thurlow Point-to-Point, with six races over a three-mile course. Horsehead Racecourse, near Haverhill, Cambs (0920 832994). Today, 2pm. £10 per car.

Kendal ramble: Moderate nine-mile walk around Dow Crag and White Maiden. Leisure Centre, Kendal, Cumbria. Thurs, 9.30am. Free.

Knighthood hussy: Fun: About 20 husky teams race over a seven-mile track. Fishpools entrance to Radnor Forest, Knighton, Powys (0597 523298). Today, 10am-1pm.

Lambourn open day: Chance to visit 16 racehorse yards between 9.30am-12.30pm, followed by entertainment on the Mowden, including falconry, Cossacks and a schooling display by top jockeys. Lambourn Open Day, Sandra Nolan. Fri, 9.30am. £5.

Newby orienteering: Jan Kjellstrom international festival event, with a training day at Carnall Racecourse on Friday followed by championships April 19-20. Bigland Estate, Newby Bridge, Cumbria (0629 734043). April 17-20, 9am-3pm. Spectators free.

Penshurst at play: More than 25 hot air balloons, with free tethered flights, plus 700 classic cars. Penshurst Place, Tonbridge, Kent (0692 870307). Apr 17-20, 7am-5.30pm; Apr 17-18 £3, child £2, cones £2.50; Apr 19-20, £3.50, child/cones £1.50. Penshurst gardens open daily 11am-6pm (house 1-5.30pm). £3, child £2 (incl house £4, child £3).

GARDENS TO VISIT

Middlesex: Capel Manor spring gardening show. Floral marquise, gardeners' market, craft, garden tools and machinery. Thirty acres of gardens. Capel Manor, near Enfield. Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £4.

Hampshire: The Spring Wood, 80 acres landscaped in the French style, with pavilions, pools, amphitheatre, trees and shrubs. Hackwood Park, 1m S of Basingstoke on A339. Tomorrow 2-6pm. £1.50, child free.

Feather report

The hidden message of a bird's song

It is hard to understand the world of our fellow mammals. We do not possess the truly vital sense, you see: we smell in black and white, and in very coarse images at that. Most mammals see in black and white, and have their sensory being in an unimaginably colourful world of smells. So many mammals are nocturnal: creatures of the dark, but people are born for the daylight.

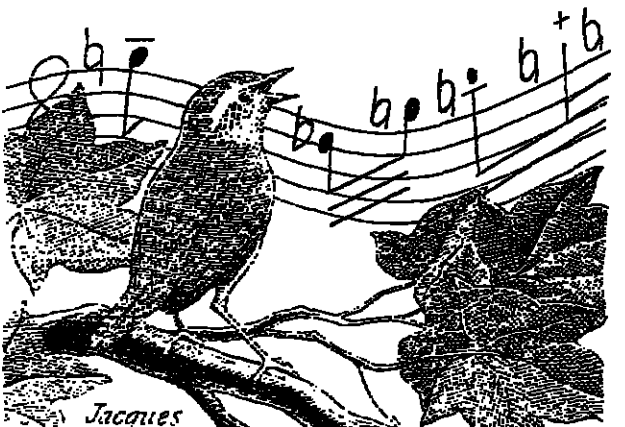
In some ways, we are closer to the bird's world. Birds, like us, see in colour. Smell is not a large part of their lives. Seeing and hearing are the things... Where birds are invisible—in the forest canopy, in shrubs and brakes, in deep grassland—they communicate in a way we can understand: they call. And at this time of the year, a lot of them sing.

And we can understand many songs and calls. Take

mammals, and this, it is thought, is what enables them to distinguish sounds that occur very close in time. They can separate sounds two thousandths of a second apart: about ten times better than we can manage. That is why a wren's song, a blur to us, is of crystal clarity for birds.

Birds hear and distinguish these sounds consciously, it would seem. The Sound Archive has recordings of a notorious mimic, the marsh warbler, a European bird that occasionally turns up in this country, and has compared its impersonations note by note with the originals, discovering that the marsh warbler does not omit a single one of the little notes and twiddly bits.

You can hear this, slowed down, and you can see it, when it is played through a sonograph. This gives you an enigmatic sort of scribbly



Classical rendering: the wren's song noted by the composer Messiaen, who used bird sounds in his works

cuckoo, for a start. Blackbirds, the laid-back flautists of the suburban woodland edging, sing a song as charming and as accessible as any in the world. Birdsong is a delight to any human with a pair of ears. So I went along to National Sound Archive's wildlife division in South Kensington to see just how much I didn't know, and to listen to familiar sounds I had never heard.

The National Sound Archive is part of the British Library and operates as a public service. Instead of, say, the 1859 edition of the *Origin of Species*, this branch will give you 500 different recordings of chaffinch. Very useful if you are studying regional dialect in birds: yes, birds do have local accents.

Richard Rannit, the curator of wildlife sounds, decided it was time I had a bird's eye view—a bird's ear audience, rather—of a wren. A wren's song lasts about six seconds: two themes divided by a trill, a song remarkable, in our ears, mainly for its vehemence. But it contains, Mr Rannit told me, about 100 notes. And he lent me a bird's ears for the occasion. He played me a wren song at quarter speed. And in a flash, the brief, violent almost expectorated song was gone.

In its place was something sweeter, more whimsical, altogether more inventive: with flamboyant leaps, grandstanding repetitions and a dramatic drum solo in the middle. Wrens not only sing it, they hear it. It is hairy ears that do it: birds have a higher density of sensory hairs than we

graph, plotting time against frequency. The graph supplies data that answer questions about, say, the difference between a robin's spring and autumn song. Some people claim there isn't one. The system has helped discover new species: a recent example is a Chinese leaf warbler, with no common name as yet—*Phylloscopus sichuanensis*.

Readers may recall the recent spate of excitement about a possible new species of petrel discovered off Britain's shores. Work at the Sound Archive on a recording of the mystery bird's voice seems to indicate that it was in fact a Swinhoe's storm petrel, which had somehow found its way here all the way from the southern hemisphere.

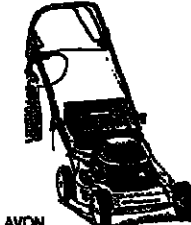
This is an Aladdin's cave of sound: a babel of biological diversity. So many species, so much noise: about 80,000 recordings, 7,000 members of the animal kingdom. Gibbons, whales, the mating call of the herring, frogs, crickets, spiders—they tap out rhythms on leaves—blackbirds. Swinhoe's storm petrel, cuckoo, nightingale, wren.

All animal life is there, yelling its head off at the touch of a button.

SIMON BARNES

● **What's about:** *Birders*—the first swallows are arriving. *Twitchee*—a night heron has been seen at Pulborough Brooks, West Sussex, and a purple heron at Poole Harbour, Dorset. *Details* from *Birdline*, 0898 700222.

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Where can you ride in a desk, be a prisoner of war, pan for lead, enjoy a Celtic ritual,

100 family treats for Easter

During the Easter holidays, being a parent provides a fine reason — or an excuse — for enjoying with your children all the fun of a family day out. Take a steam train journey, press buttons in a new high-tech museum, pat farm animals out in the country, take part in historical re-enactments — there is plenty of scope for embarrassing your children by joining in with all the entertainment.

To find out what diversions are on offer around the country, Betty Jerman has tracked down a multitude of things to do and see that will absorb and entertain children of all ages, and in all weathers. For this weekend and many others throughout the year, the list should provide a rich source of cures for that dreaded moan: "I'm bored. There's nothing to do."

Where places are not open year-round, opening times have been indicated. But either way a telephone call to check details before travelling is strongly recommended. Any venue may be unexpectedly closed for a day or more.

MUSEUMS

□ **Museum of the Moving Image**
South Bank, SE1 (071-401 2636)

Magic lanterns, the early and prime days of Hollywood, TV from black and white days. Make your own animations, read the news, soar over London through special effects. £5.50, child £4.

□ **London Toy & Model Museum**
21-23 Craven Hill, W2 (071-262 7905)

7,000 commercially made toys in two Victorian houses. In the garden: play bus, boating pond, vintage carousel, trains. £2.80, child £1.30.

□ **Museum of Automata**
Tower Street, York (0904 655550)

Collection of colourful 18th to 19th-century mechanically animated figures brought to life, some on video screens. Start modern pieces yourself, such as the Mad Professor's Musical Instrument. £3, child £1.70.

□ **Teddy Bear Museum**
19 Greenhill, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 293160)

Bears large, small, mechanical, musical and famous. £1.90, child 95p.

□ **The Historic Dockyard Chatham, Kent (0634 812551)**

Shipbuilding since the Tudors. Check events at Visitor

Centre first, like traditional ropemaking in 1,128ft Rope-walk. "Wooden Walls", story of building and going into action of a wooden warship, with figures, voices, gunfire. £5.20, child £2.60.

□ **Eden Camp**
Malton, N. Yorkshire (0653 697777)

Former prisoner-of-war camp. Experience the second world war, rationing, fashions, Home Guard, munitions factory, coal mine (Bevin Boys) with sound, light and smells. £3, child £2.

□ **Bath Industrial Heritage Centre**
Camden Works, Julian Road, Bath (0225 318348)

Victorian ironmonger's and mineral water business. Try your hand at mixing "pop". April-October. £2.50, child £1.50.

□ **Sally Lunn's Refreshment House and Museum**
4 North Parade Passage, Bath (0225 461634)

Watch the owners baking the famous bun. Ecclesiastical, late-Tudor kitchen. Excavations revealed Roman, Saxon levels. Under-road tunnel with stalactites. 30p, child free.

□ **Castle Museum**
Clifford Street, York (0904 653611)

Once a prison. Reconstructed Victorian streets with shops, cabs. Rooms furnished, Georgian, Victorian, even 1950s.



Ruff justice: period dressing up at the children's museum in 16th-century Haggs Castle, Glasgow, with the original kitchen brought to life and the gentry dressing for dinner

Lots of toys and costumes. £3.35, child £2.35

□ **Tuttle House**
Castle Street, Carlisle (0228 34781)

Border history. Stroll through Roman Carlisle, climb Hadrian's Wall, meet a reiver (ancient cattle rustler), peep into a bird of prey hideout. £3.10, child £1.60

□ **Welsh Folk Museum**
St Fagans, Cardiff (0222 569441)

Welsh life seen through buildings brought from original sites. Elizabethan mansion, farmhouse, cottages, coal miners' terrace, chapel, forge, gardens. Children's activity guide. £3.50, child £1.75

□ **Amberley Chalk Pits Museum**
Houghton Bridge, Amberley, W. Sussex (0798 831370)

Open air. The industrial working life of our forebears, engines, a forge, village garage. Working pottery, blacksmith, brick-making. Try ancient omnibus. April-October. £3.90, child £1.50.

□ **National Museum of Photography, Film and Television**
Princes View, Bradford (0274 727488)

Everything you would want to know about taking photographs, from early stills to latest technology. Operate the

cameras in a studio set, be a TV newsreader, fly courtesy of special effects. Free entry.

□ **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**
Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, Middx (081-568 4757)

Giant Victorian engines in restored water pumping station, even a steam railway. £2.10, child £1.

□ **Haggs Castle**
100 St Andrew's Drive, Glasgow (041-427 2725)

16th-century castle now a museum for children. Original kitchen brought to life and the gentry in their bedroom preparing for dinner. Victorian nursery with dolls. Free.

Join the pilgrims walking to Becket's tomb. Hear the tales of the County Knight, the Wife of Bath. Life-size figures in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **A Day at the Wells**
The Corn Exchange, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 546545)

Walk through settings of 18th-century society taking the waters, a coffee house, the Pantiles, an hotel, a ball. Commentary. £2.75, child £1.75.

□ **Royal and Empire Central Station, Windsor**
(0753 857837)

Spectacular re-creation of Queen Victoria awaiting guests for Diamond Jubilee and "departing" from station with guard of honour. New fortieth anniversary exhibition about royalty today. Learn to curtsy, wear a replica crown, walk through a cheering crowd. £3.95, child £2.45.

□ **Royal Mews**
Buckingham Palace Road, SW1 (071-930 4832)

Four Windsor greys demonstrate how the familiar pageantry is created in stables where, also for the first time, all seven state carriages can be seen. April 15-July 16 Wed-Thurs, July 22-Oct 2 Wed-Fri, noon-4pm. £2, child £1.

□ **Warwick Castle**
Warwick (0926 495421)

Splendidly dressed figures in 12 rooms, making their toilettes, formally socialising in the drawing-room for "A Royal Weekend Party — 1898" — when Edward VII visited. Also state rooms, dungeon, armoury in medieval castle. £5.75, child £3.50.

□ **Beamish**
Hampshire (0590 612123)

Buckley's Hard, 18th-century shipbuilding village, 2.5 miles from the Motor Museum. Original cottages brought to life with figures, furnishings, labourers, shipwrights, inn patrons. £2.50, child £1.50.

trips. Try replica Victorian costumes. £6.25, child £4.25.

□ **Black Country Museum**
Tipton Road, Dudley, W. Midlands (021-557 9643)

Industrial past brought to life with costumed staff. Homes, shops, chapel, bakery, chainmaker. Drift mine. 1920s fairground. Travel by tramcar. £4.75, child £3.25.

□ **Acton Scott Working Farm Museum**
Wenlock Lodge, Acton Scott, Shropshire (0694 6306)

Working farm before electricity and petrol engine. Sheep, pigs, poultry. Traditional crafts demonstrated. April-October. £2.50, child £1.20.

□ **Wigan Pier**
Wigan, Lancs (0942 323666)

1900 brought to life. Visit a collier's family, sing in the pub, repent at the temperance meeting, see a Victorian classroom. £5.10, child £3.10.

□ **Smugglers' Adventure**
St Clement's Caves, West Hill, Hastings (0424 422964)

In a labyrinth of caverns over 50 life-size figures, with sound and light, tell the story of 18th to 19th-century smuggling. £3, child £2.

□ **Tower Hill Pageant**
Tower Hill, SE1 (071-709 0081)

child £1.30.

□ **Killhope Wheel**
Stanhope-Alston road, Northumbria (0388 537505)

The squalor of miners' dwellings, eating, sleeping four to a bed in same room. 34ft-high wheel now turning again. Pan for lead and discover the drudgery of finding enough to get paid. Easter-October. £1.50, child 75p.

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Invasion of the giant penguins: IMAX screen at the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television, Bradford

RE-CREATIONS

□ **Jorvik Viking Centre**
Coppergate, York YO1 (0904 643211)

Unique, being on the site where it happened. You travel in "time cars", hearing a commentary, through a reconstructed Viking settlement. A market street, houses with rubbish-choked yards and a cargo boat are seen before travelling through the excavated site of where it actually happened. £3.30, child £1.65.

□ **The Tales of Robin Hood**
30-38 Maid Marian Way, Nottingham, NG1 6CF (0602 483284)

"Time cars" into the greenwood to see figures, settings recreating the legends of the outlaws. Study research on the legends. Archery. £3.95, child £2.50.

□ **The Oxford Story**
6 Broad Street, Oxford (0865 790055)

Ride in a moving desk, learn about university life from the Middle Ages through the Reformation and Civil War, about characters seen life-size in settings. Commentary. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **The Canterbury Tales**
St Margaret's Street, Canterbury (0227 454888)

with outdoor privy, coal mine. Horse and cart transports fodder, visitors. Passport all Ironbridge sites £7.80, child £5.

□ **Morwellham Quay Open Air Museum**

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LIVING HISTORY

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□ **Beamish North of England Open Air Museum**
Beamish, Northumbria (0207 231811)

Re-erected buildings with costumed staff: bread baking in coal-fired ovens, cheese-making, dentistry. Co-op's money taking-change return system. Drift mine, pit cottages. Travel by tramcar. £6, child £4.

□ **Elvaston Castle Museum and Country Park**
Elvaston, near Derby (0332 573799)

Working estate from around 1910. Cottage with fire-heated irons, coal-burning grate, wash-house. Farrier, saddler. March-Oct, Wed-Sat afternoons, all day Sun, bank holidays. £1.20, child 60p.

□ **Blists Hill Open Air Museum**
Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Telford, Shropshire (0952 453522)

Recreation of Victorian town with costumed staff. Chemist with dentistry section, bank, carpenter, squatter's cottage



Get all steamed up at the Beamish Open Air Museum



See Viking carvings where they were dug up, in York

MARINE LIFE

□ **Kingdom of the Sea**
Marine Parade, Gt Yarmouth (0493 330631)

Walk through an ocean tunnel to see shark and other sea creatures. Child-height beach pool with inhabitants to touch. £4.25, child £2.25.

□ **Kingdom of the Sea**
Southern Parade, Hunstanton, Norfolk (0485 533576)

Ocean tunnel with deep-sea creatures. Also deserted seal pups cared for until returned to sea. £3.99, child £2.99.

□ **Sea Life Park**
Lodmoor Country Park, Weymouth (0305 788255)

Ocean tunnel surrounds you with hundreds of marine creatures. Touch pool. Films of the world's oceans. £4.25, child £2.95.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth (0705 734461)

Life beneath the waves, British sharks, octopus. Touch pool. Different: piranhas, electric rays, moray eels. £3.85, child £2.60.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings (0424 718776)

Multi-level viewing, tunnel, tanks, sharks, octopus, stingrays. Touch pool. £3.95, child £2.75.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Marine Parade, Brighton (0273 604233)

Mixture of Victorian and modern display techniques for sharks, stingrays, octopus, fish.

tickle a stingray, look for electronic fleas and join in the monkey walk? See below!



Happy retirement: visit a veteran dolphin in Brighton

pets, anemones. Veteran dolphins, now retired. £3.95, child £2.90.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Golden Mile Centre,
Promenade, Blackpool (0253 22445)
Multi-level viewing of sharks, stingrays, conger eels among hundreds of other creatures. £4.75, child £3.75.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Scafell Mills,
Scarborough (0334 376125)
From shallow to watery deep, ocean tunnel for uninterrupted view of sharks, stingrays. £3.60, child £2.25.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll (0631 72386)
Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures, rock pools. Abandoned seal pups cared for before return to the wild. £3.85, child £2.50.

□ **Sea Life Centre**
The Scores, St Andrews, Fife (0344 74756)
Multi-level viewing of hundreds of sea creatures. Rock pools. Seal breeding programme and playful mammals to be viewed. £3.85, child £2.50.

□ **Northern Ireland Aquarium**
The Ropewalk, Castle Street, Portaferry, Co. Down (0247 728062)
Around 70 marine species found in Straigford Lough from octopus to conger eel. £1.50, child 85p.

□ **Brixham Aquarium**
The Quay, Brixham (0803 832204)
Collection of specimens found in UK waters, sharks, octopus, conger eel, etc. Easter-Sept. 75p, child 50p.

□ **A World of Nature**
15 Lansdown Road, Bude, Devon (0288 32423)
Aquariums with what you find thrown up on the tideline, such as crabs, mermaid's purses, seaweed. Also woodland scene. 50p, child 15p.

□ **Natural World**
The Quay, Poole (0202 636712)
Aquarium and serpentarium, snakes, piranhas, alligators. £2.95, child £2.

BIRDWORLD

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Mill Road, Arundel, W. Sussex (0903 883355)
Variety of ducks, geese, swans in pens, lakes, paddocks. Fun to feed them with correct food. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
District 15, Washington, Tyne and Wear (091-416 5454)
Flock of flamingos all named after characters in Catherine Cookson's books are among 1,200 birds. £2.95, child £1.50.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Martin Mere, Burscough, Ormskirk, Lancs (0704 895181)
45 acres of waterfowl gardens, with more than 1,600 species from all over the world. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Slinbridge, Glos (0453 890333)
World's largest collection of wildfowl, 2,500 individuals with some 180 different kinds. Tropical house. Cinema. £4, child £2.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Peakirk, nr Peterborough (0733 252271)
100 species including flamingos, ducks, geese in 17 acres. £2.95, child £1.50.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Pintail House, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, nr Wisbech, Cambs (0353 860711)
850 acres, observatory and hides, to view numerous birds, also butterflies and dragonflies in season. £2.70, child £1.35.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Eastpark Farm, Caerlaverock, Dumfriesshire (0387 77200)
Normally open Sept-April for wintering geese, but from this year open through summer too. Roe deer, merlins, colony

of natterjack toads. £2.70, child £1.35.

□ **Castle Espie Centre**
78 Ballydrain Road, Comber, Co. Down (0247 872517)
Ireland's largest collection of ducks, geese and swans. £2.20, child £1.10.

□ **Wildfowl and Wetlands Centre**
Penclawdd, Llynghendy, Llanelli, Dyfed (0554 741087)
Newest and already attracting wildfowl like teal, shelducks, birds of prey. Most Wildfowl and Wetlands Centres have family tickets. £2.95, child £1.50.

□ **Pensthorpe Waterfowl Park and Nature Reserve**
Fakenham, Cambs (0328 851465)
200 acres, lakes created from gravel pits. Torrent ducks, pygmy geese, oyster-catchers. Duck decoy shows how birds were once caught for market. April-Jan. £3.50, child £1.60.

□ **Birdworld and Underwaterworld**
Holt Pond, Farnham, Surrey (0420 22668)
1,000 birds from tiny hanging parrots to ostrich. Additionally, massive aquariums with blind cave fish, piranha, coral. £3.50, child £1.80. Underwater: 95p and 45p.

□ **Paradise Park**
Hayle, Cornwall (0736 753565)
Some 400 birds and animals in aviaries and paddocks. Emphasis on conservation. Falconry centre. Other sanctuary. £4.25, child £2.25.

□ **Tropical Bird Gardens**
Rode, nr Bath (0373 830326)
In 17 acres of woodland, flower gardens, lakes, exotic birds free-flying or in cages. Breeding waterfowl, flamingos, parrots. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ **IOW Rare Breeds and Waterfowl Park**
Undercliffe Drive, St Lawrence, nr Ventnor (0983 852582)
Combination: 100 species of waterfowl and 40 rare breeds of cattle, deer, poultry in 30 acres. April-Oct. £2.10, child £1.30.

□ **Bentley Wildfowl and Nature Museum**
Holland, nr Uckfield, E. Sussex (0825 840573)
1,000 waterfowl, geese, ducks, flamingos, cranes. Also collection of roadworthy vintage and veteran cars. March-Oct. £3.10, child £1.50.

□ **Brambles English Wildlife and Rare Breeds**
Waddon Forest Park, Herne Common, Kent (0227 712379)
Under-fives playground with playhouses and small bikes. Farm animals, walk-in rabbit pen. Easter-October. £1.20, child £1.

□ **Children's Farm**
Great Knelle Farm, Beckley, Rye (07972 60321)
Animals to feed, a rabbit village, miniature ponies. Easter-October. £3.75, child £3.

□ **Drusillas Park**
Alfriston, E. Sussex (0323 870234)
Viewing windows for monkey walk, meerkat mound, etc. at child level. Adventure playground for tots. Quizzes for three-year-olds upwards. £4.50, child £3.95.

□ **Marwell Zoological Park**
Colden Common, near Winchester (0962 777406)
Children's farmyard. Train rides through park. £5.20, child £4.

□ **Kinderland**
Burniston Road, North Bay, Scarborough (0723 354555)
Toddler's own climbing village in multi-equipment playgrounds specially designed for under-14s. Easter-Sept. £2.95; summer £3.75.

□ **Dinosaur World**
Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay, Cwyd (0492 518111)
Tiny tots "Dinosaur Play Area" has smaller, friendly looking creatures. Easter-

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR UNDER-FIVES



Playtime at Kinderland

Sept. £1.50, child £1.

□ **Playworld**
Floralands Garden Centre, Caigfoot Lane,

Lambley, Notts (0602 670487)
A separate under-fives area in children's playpark with real fire engine, assault course. Easter-Sept. £1, child £2.40.

□ **Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood**
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (081-980 2415)
Saturday art workshops for three upwards with under-fives' own painting corner in enormous toy collection where children are expected to be heard and seen. Free.

□ **Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Railway**
New Romney, Kent (0679 62353)
Steam trains, one-third normal size and travelling slowly across marshes. Easter-Sept.

£6.90, child £3.45.

□ **Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway**
Ravenglass, Cumbria (0229 717171)
Mostly steam driven, through wonderful scenery. April-Nov. £5.20, child £2.60.

□ **Jonah's Journey**
Rutherford Celebration Centre, Rosemount Place, Aberdeen (0224 647614)
Life in Biblical times. Dress up, make oil lamps etc. Puppets. 50p, child £1.

□ **Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre**
Sacrewell, Thornhaugh, Cambs (0780 782222)
Sand pit with child-sized manual farms tools for sowing and hoeing etc. Piglets, kids and lambs. £1; fives and under, free.

CLARE MACINTOSH



Meet Billy the kid: take the chance to act the goat and discover rabbits, ponies and other animals — even dinosaurs — at a children's farm

BUTTERFLIES

□ **London Butterfly House**
Syon Park, Middx (081-560 0881)
Dazzling collection of free-flying butterflies from around the world in tropical rainforest. Watch lo-

in walled garden of 800-year-old castle. Visit the great hall and enormous kitchens. April-Oct. £3.40, child £1.60.

□ **Butterfly Centre**
Royal Parade, Eastbourne (0323 645522)
Wander around tropical glass-houses among free-flying butterflies from all over the world. March-Nov. £2.25, child £1.25.

□ **Worldwide Butterflies and Insect World**
Compton House, Sherborne, W. Dorset (0935 74608)
Butterflies, moths, flying, breeding, in a stately home and its grounds, plus making English silk from ancient processes. April-Oct. £3.75, child £2.

□ **New Forest Butterfly Farm**
Longdown, Ashurst, nr Southampton (0703 293367)
Exotic butterflies and moths from around the world free-flying in jungle setting. Behind glass: scorpions, praying mantis. April-Oct. £3.30, child £2.30.

□ **Living Jungle**
Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth (0493 842202)
Free-flying butterflies from faraway places. Behind glass: scorpions, tarantulas. Look for tiny, brilliantly coloured humming birds. March-Oct. £2.80, child £1.30.

□ **Stratford-upon-Avon Butterfly and Jungle Safari**
Tramway Walk, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 299288)
Europe's largest live butterfly house, and the world's largest water lily. Insect City contains the world's largest spider. £3, child £2.25.

□ **Butterfly and Falconry Park**
Long Sutton, Spalding, Lincs (0406 363833)
Step into large, tropical butterfly house to observe (and photograph) free-flying creatures. Insectarium with scorpions, tarantulas, giant stick insects. Additionally raptor centre with falcons, hawks, eagles, owls. March-Nov. £2.80, child £1.80.

□ **Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World**
Dobbies Garden Centre, Lasswade, nr Edinburgh (031-663 4932)
Rainforest with plants, ponds where butterflies fly freely. Behind glass: scorpions, tarantulas, huge green beetles. March-Oct. £2.85, child £1.60.

□ **Seaford Tropical Butterfly House**
Seaford Nursery, Seaford, Co. Down (0396 87225)
Hundreds of free-flying exotic butterflies. Behind glass, insects and reptiles from four continents. April-Sept. £2, child £1.20.

HANDS-ON SCIENCE

□ **Science Museum**
Exhibition Road, SW7 (071-938 8080)
Launch Pad, the pioneer. Fun while learning. New Flight Lab, 24 hands-on exhibits. £3.50, child £1.75.

□ **Buxton Micrarium**
St Ann's Well, The Crescent, Buxton, Derbyshire (0298 786662)
Through microscopes reflected on TV screens study a crystal growing, a snowflake, butterfly wings. April-November. £2.25, child £1.25.

□ **The Exploratory**
The Old Station, Temple Meads, Bristol (0272 252008)
Make a ball hover in mid-air, play an elliptical snooker table. Gyroscopes, lasers, bubbles. £3.50, child £2.50.

□ **Intech**
Hampshire Technology Centre, Romsey Road, Winchester (0963 863791)
Keep balls in the air, make someone else's reflection appear in a mirror. Free entry.

□ **Techniques**
72 Bute Street, Pierhead, Cardiff (0222 460211)
Design a computer tree, create electricity, learn how aircraft fly. £3, child £1.50.

□ **Museum of Science and Industry**

Liverpool Road, Castlefield, Manchester (061-832 2244)
"Experiment!" Look for electronic fleas, magic with mirrors. £3.50, child £1.50, under-fives free.

□ **Jodrell Bank Science Centre and Tree Park**
Macclesfield (0477 71339)
Hands-on gallery with infinity mirrors, gyro chair, sound reflectors. £3.20, child £1.80.

□ **Museum of Science and Engineering**
Blandford Square, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (091-232 6789)
"Science Factory": Change the colours of shadows, keep a ball in the air with air. Free.

□ **Dome of Discovery**
South Rotunda, 10 Gowan Road, Glasgow (041-427 1792)
Make sound waves on a vibrating string or on water; create a vertical wave. 60 exhibits. £2.50, child £1.50.

□ **Stratosphere**
The Discovery Place, Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen. (0224 213232)
Nearly 100 hands-on experiments exploring sound, light and energy. £3, child £1.

□ **Betty Jarman is the author of** Kids' Brain, published by Pico, £3.99. See page 38 for more kids' stuff.

□ **Next week: Best of Britain visits** the Tower of London.



Making feathered friends: adopt a duck at one of the wildfowl and wetlands centres

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Golden youth: Pierre Gruneberg at Cap Ferrat in 1952

This is Pierre Gruneberg's charmed life. He spends the four summer months at the Hotel Bel-Air at Cap Ferrat on the Côte d'Azur. In the four winter months he is at Courcheval, at another grand hotel, Les Aïnelles, in the French Alps. In between, he spends two months in Paris, and two months travelling the world. "It is quite a nice arrangement. *Voilà*."

What he did to deserve this life was to become, at the age of 18, a swimming instructor: not a route to global fame as a rule, but M Gruneberg is easily Europe's most fashionable. He has been teaching swimming on the Riviera for 40 years: he gave lessons to the families of Picasso, Cocteau, Charlie Chaplin, Onassis. And for the next few days he will be teaching swimming classes at Chewton Glen, the Hampshire hotel.

The story of M Gruneberg's love affair with his swimming pool is deeply romantic. His German parents (a lawyer and a teacher of English) brought him up in Paris, where he was destined to become an interpreter with Uno.

But when he hitch-hiked to the Riviera in 1949, hoping to earn money teaching swimming for the summer, he looked at Nice, Cannes, Monte Carlo — and then saw the pool at the Grand Hotel du Cap Ferrat (as it was then known), an Olympic-sized pool on a promontory overlooking the sea, and fell so deeply in love he never wanted to leave it. And he never has.

"I was in shorts and rucksack, and I asked to see the manager, an old man of 72, very nice but very strict. I said I would wait for hours. I did not care how long. Then I said to him, 'I have fallen in love with

your pool and I want to be your swimming instructor,' and he said, 'We have one already.' 'Well,' I said, 'maybe one day... and I speak English, French, German, Italian.' And he told me to wait a minute."

"The fellow they had did not speak languages. Then he brought out a picture of three beautiful girls in bathing costumes and asked me, 'What do you think of this picture?' I was panicking because I knew that my whole future depended on my answer. I was lucky because I gave him the answer he was hoping for: I said, 'These are beautiful girls, but I came here to work, not to chase girls.' And later I heard that the fellow they had was a terrible girl-chaser. The following month I got the contract for the first year, 1950."

It turned out to be his vocation: "I had to teach people to swim, to be with people. I think now I would have been a miserable interpreter." Celebrities who gravitated to the Riviera tended to congregate around his pool and even the most glamorous among them needed to learn to swim, or had children who did, or at least wanted to improve their crawl, with the *maître baigneur*.

So his leather-bound scrapbook contains the signatures, drawings and photographs of all the Riviera's most famous *habitués*. David Niven, Somerset Maugham (Maugham's house, La Mauresque, lately famous as the house Fergie went to with Steve Wyatt, is just next door)... "Here is Picasso, who came in 1953 with Cocteau. Cocteau did this drawing for me and Picasso did that. Here is Jacques Tati, on holiday like M Hulot, but I gave him a few tips.

"Here is Capucine the model, Onassis... I taught his daughter Christina to swim. This is a letter from Somerset Maugham inviting me to dinner... Adlai Stevenson, Sacha Distel, Shirley Bassey — a wonderful pupil who really learnt how to crawl well — Donald Campbell and Tonia Bern, King Baudouin of the Belgians, King Umberto of Italy, Porfirio Rubirosa, Princess Soraya, Paul McCartney's children wrote me this little verse called 'Frog, scissor, pencil' because when you learn the breaststroke these are the three shapes you make: *grenouille, ciseaux, crayon*."

The succession of autographs is punctuated by press cuttings: how the *maître nageur* saved six people from drowning, how he coached the French team at the Melbourne Olympics, and how he introduced short skis to France.

The skiing pictures are equally jet-setty: "Here are the Kennedy sisters, Pat and Jean, Uri Geller, Gerard Depardieu, the jockey Yves St Martin, Isabelle Adjani, Claire Bretecher the cartoonist, Johnny Halliday drew me his guitar. Belmondo is here with his son Paul; here is Brigitte Bardot, who has skied with me several times at Courcheval."

Most people's family albums turn out to be dominated by poolside, skiing or other holiday-location comes with everyone smiling, tanned and happy. Imagine, M Gruneberg says, for him every day is like this. He is the most contented soul. He sees people at their best, in their most relaxed mood. When not teaching he is organising races, gymnastic classes, fancy-dress parties.

He has seen the Riviera change



In at the deep end: Pierre Gruneberg prepares his teaching aids for his lessons at Chewton Glen hotel in Hampshire

completely, from a local resort where well-to-do doctors and businessmen lived, who would visit the pool with their families. "Today it is more clients: Saudis, Japanese and so on. It is a different world: not worse or better, but different." (The hotel is now Japanese owned; they also have the Bel Air in Hollywood, hence the renaming.)

He says he could teach anyone to swim in half an hour: the secret is to begin simply. "I like to make difficult things easy for people. I'm not interested in training kids who are very, very good. I want to make difficult sports easy." So when he

teaches wind-surfing, he starts people off in the swimming pool, because the main problem is getting up; when he teaches swimming, he starts them off not in the pool but in a salad bowl.

Breathing is the main problem, with swimming. "Ninety per cent of the people I have taught had problems with breathing. But in the pool, they panic, so I take them out of the water and show them scientifically in a salad bowl because it is transparent. First I teach people how to blow bubbles

and sing out, exhaling slowly, into the bowl. Instead of saying 'blow', which makes them think they have no air left, I say 'sing' and they sing out bubbles under the water. It is an extremely simple method. We spend half an hour or three quarters on this before getting into the water at all."

A friend of mine who always used to swim like a swan, with neck stuck out of the water, had half an hour with M Gruneberg last year and has been swimming like a fish ever since.

Every day M Gruneberg swims three miles in the sea at Cap Ferrat:

there is nothing better for cardiovascular health; it induces a state of euphoria. "I prefer the sea to the pool, myself. While I swim I see the fish. Sometimes there are big waves but a good brather will not swallow water." And off he went, with his salad bowl under his arm, to teach his principles at Chewton Glen, where guests, just until Thursday, can swim with M Gruneberg and sample the cuisine of Jean-Claude Guillon from the same hotel.

● Pierre Gruneberg will be at Chewton Glen until Thursday, April 16 (0425 275341)

Cracking up over Easter eggs? Maybe now is the time to make a change...

Eggs have been inseparable from Easter as a symbol of spiritual resurrection since the dawn of Christianity. The first chocolate eggs were produced in France in the early 19th century, and today the British spend about £214 million each year on them.

But for those reluctant to spend a lot for fancy packaging containing a little chocolate, there are imaginative alternative Easter gifts available by mail order.

● Humorous set of six sterling silver, egg-shaped place-card holders, each with a different facial expression, costs £460 (£3 p&p, free delivery in London) from Garrard, 112 Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 7020).

● Hand-painted porcelain Herend rabbits in green, blue or rust. £76 per pair; chubby single bunny, £130; porcelain bird-with-egg trinket boxes by artist Philippe Deshoulier, £50 each; long-handled horn egg spoons, from £30. All from Thomas Goode, 19 South Audley Street, London W1 (071-499 2823). P&p extra.

● Realistic looking 10in-tall yolk breakfast egg in a yellow, black or green eggcup is really a teapot in disguise: £26.85 plus £3.95 p&p from The Tea House, 15 Neal Street, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 0135).

● Country plot planted with a broadleaf sapling costs £17.50 from the non profit-making organisation Heritage Conserved. Landowners receive legal title to a 6ft square plot by way of a decorated deed and location map showing where their sapling is planted. From Heritage Conserved, Afton, High Street, Llanfyllin, Powys, SY22 5AR (0691 84749).

● Beatrix Potter Peter Rabbit slippers for children £8.75 plus £1.75 p&p from Frog Hollow, 15 Victoria Grove, London W11 (071-581 5493).

● Simnel cakes have been associated with Easter for more than 300 years. The name derives from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine flour. Traditional simnel cakes attractively decorated with a marzipan nest and praline songthrush eggs cost £15.95 plus £5.20 p&p from the Harrogate Bakery, Betty's By Post (0423 531211). Last telephone orders to be received by Monday.

Gifts with a difference

● Caroline Dickinson Flowers and Rocco Chocolates have joined forces to offer shoppers Easter chocolates or a posy of primroses or violets with every purchase over £50. For details, contact Caroline Dickinson Flowers, 5 William Street, SW1 (071-245 9599), or Rocco, 321 King's Road, SW3 (071-352 5857). New offerings from Rocco include chocolate asparagus, £2.80 for 4oz and chocolate bird eggs-dove, £3 for 8oz, hummingbird, £2.50. Six quails eggs in nest, £4.95.

● Hand-painted enamel Limoges egg-shaped opening boxes in a range of designs

cost about £35 inc. p&p from Direct Import, Clapton Manor, Clapton-on-the-Hill, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos GL54 2LG (0451 20255).

● Silver egg cufflinks, £55, also other animal shapes from Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 (071-734 1234).

● Easter lilies (*longiflorum*), with their white trumpet blooms, have a delicate perfume and cost £14.99 for five stems, or £19 for ten, including nationwide delivery, from Exotics Direct (0798 812340). Orders by Wednesday.

● Fabergé clear crystal egg with fine lines of golden rutile, £1,950 from N. Bloom, 40

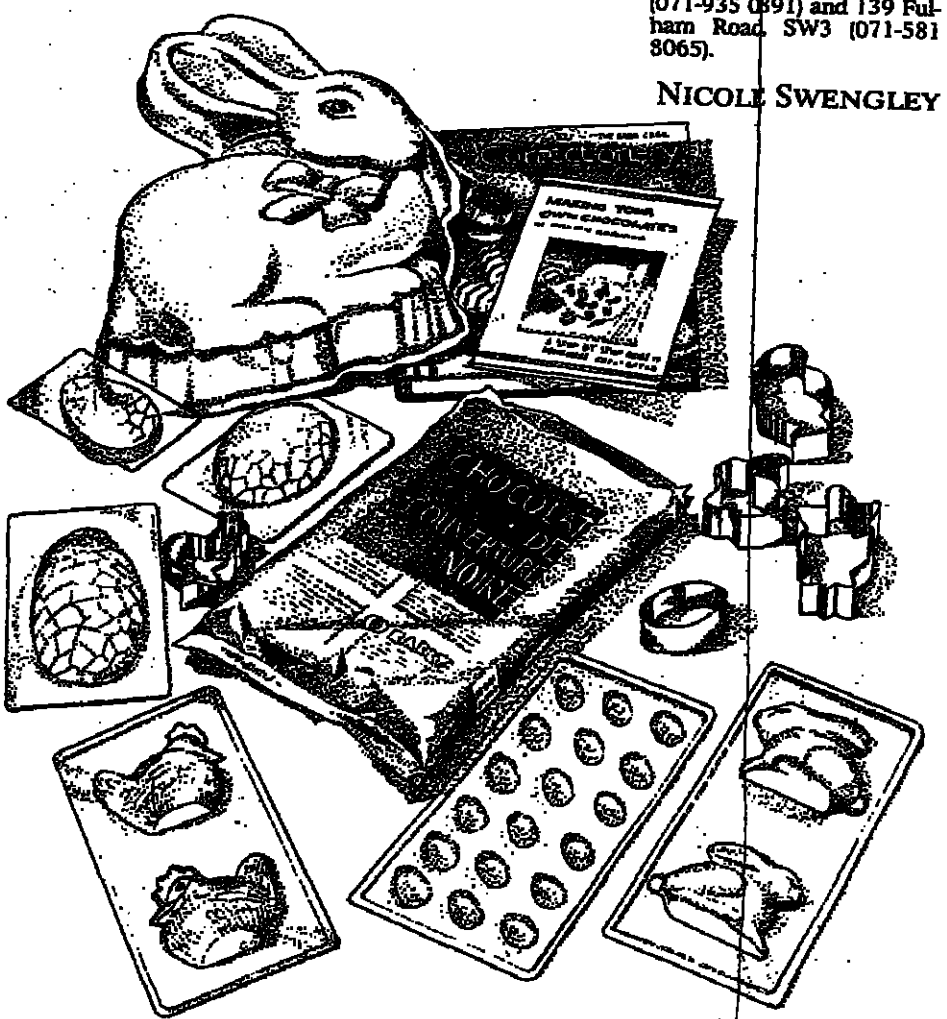
Conduit Street, London W1 (071-629 060). Gem-set Fabergé eggs from £1,500 and some Russian eggs from about £1,000 at the N. Bloom concession in Harrods, Knightsbridge, London, SW1 (071-730 1234).

● Mexican brightly coloured 18-in tin chicken candle sconce, £27 plus £3 p&p from Neal Street East, 5 Neal Street, WC2 (071-240 0135).

● Colourful wooden Polish eggs, £1.50 each; chocolate "dinosaur" eggs, £1.25 from The Museum Store, 37 The Market, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 5760).

● Easter utensils (some illustrated below) at kitchen specialisms Divertimenti include a bunny cake tin, £10.51 plus £2 p&p; bunny and chick biscuit cutters, 30¢ each; hen chocolate mould, £2.17 plus £1 p&p; single chocolate egg mould, from 48¢ plus £1.25 p&p for three. Divertimenti, 45 Wigmore Street, London W1 (071-935 0891) and 139 Fulham Road, SW3 (071-581 3065).

NICOLE SWENGLEY



THE SUNDAY TIMES magazine

Bodyfit

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

مكتبة من الكتب

Pottery erotica from a Brixton kiln

Although the Prince of Wales liked her work, potter Kate Byrne still felt she had to run away to build her self-confidence. Vinny Lee reports

Kate Byrne is busy tending the tropical menagerie she has created. Two large dodos — one resplendent with a plumed headdress (reminiscent of Diana Cooper's favourite feather-adorned hat), the other with a quizzical grin — sit in a corner looking at each other.

Below them on a table, bobbled geckos scamper over stacks of brightly coloured plates and saucers. Shelves are stacked with bunches of vivid yellow, orange and green prickly pears, star fruit, sugar apples and mangoes hanging on bowls, cups and mugs.

"Don't touch, they're hot," warns the protectively gloved potter, as she unloads another batch of her painted wares from the kiln. Ms Byrne's exotic haven — in the grime and bustle of Brixton, south London — is all her own making.

This time last year it was like an underwater cavern, filled with row upon row of pottery fish shaped into toothbrush holders, light pulls, soap and cotton-wool bowls.

Ms Byrne started her ceramics business in October 1985, with financial help from the Enterprise Allowance scheme.

Her talent was recognised early on — all the work she prepared for her degree show was bought at her college end-of-term exhibition.

When Liberty opened its bathroom shop in the basement of its Regent Street store in London, it commissioned Ms Byrne to design a range of bathroom accessories: hence the shoals of fish dishes and holders.

She may also have a royal fan. To commemorate his official opening of the studio workshops in Deptford, south London (where Ms Byrne used to be based), the Prince of Wales was presented with one of her bird-shaped jugs.

Later, when the Prince had gone, his equerry came back to her workshop and bought two more bird jugs, destination unknown — "but I like to think they were for the Prince," Ms Byrne says.

Stuart Mansell and Janet Hill of J.K. Hill British Studio Ceramics are also aware of Ms Byrne's talent



Far from extinct: Kate Byrne with her sculpted dodos in the colourful, tropical paradise she has created in her Brixton studio, where the Prince of Wales's equerry came to buy several of her bird jugs

and are providing the venue for her solo show from April 14 to May 2 at their Old Brompton Road, London, studio.

"It is difficult to find a potter with the diversity to justify a solo exhibition," Mr Mansell says. "But Kate's work is not only very fine in its execution, but also has variety and a great use of colour."

Among the more than 70 pieces of work on show will be examples of her studio sculpture, such as the two large dodos (about £600 each), two strutting cockerels (20in high), a hen apparently sitting on eggs, a set

of running ducks and various large, carved and decorated pots, one featuring leaping fish that form the spout and handles.

As well as the one-off sculptural work, Ms Byrne will also be showing and selling her tableware. The brightly coloured, Spanish-style gecko and fruit designs start at £12.30 for a soup or cereal bowl, £17.04 for an 8in side plate and £17.60 for mugs and jugs. Prices rise to £21.74 for dinner plates, £37.60 for a serving platter and £54 for a teapot.

The inspiration for the gecko and

fruit designs came last summer when Ms Byrne "ran away".

"I was caught in a vicious circle," she explains. "Orders came in for the hand-painted, press-moulded ranges I had been producing for some time, and I was constantly working to fulfil those orders. I couldn't find the time to develop new ideas or to do any sculptural work, which is my first love."

"In the end I decided that the only way to resolve the problem was to go away."

"So I finished all the orders I had taken and then went off to Spain

and Greece and worked in a bar for a couple of months."

"I did a little painting, but mainly relaxed and learnt to be more assertive."

Ms Byrne's next collection may have an even more exotic theme, because she will be spending four weeks from the end of May working in the Philippines.

"I was approached by John Jenkins, a firm of china importers, to send some photographs of my work for consideration for an EC-funded design project."

"I stuck a few bits and pieces in

an envelope and sent them off, but I'm always sending photographs and samples off, so I didn't really think much more about it."

"A few weeks later I had a phone call telling me that I had been appointed as a design consultant to a Philippines co-operative of 15 pottery factories."

"The factories are very good at painting and producing, but they need some help in developing ideas and techniques. Helping other potters to create colour schemes and new styles will be a wonderful change from the days when I used

to hand-paint fish dishes by the hundred."

● Kate Byrne's exhibition from April 14 to May 2 is at J.K. Hill, British Studio Ceramics, 89 Old Brompton Road, SW3. Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am-8pm; Saturday, 9.30am-7pm; Sunday, 3-7pm. Further details about the exhibition from 071-584 7529.

● For details of stockists nationwide contact Kate Byrne at Clockwork Studios, 38 Southwell Road, SE5 9PG (071-274 0034). Her work will also be at Creative Eye, Chelsea Old Town Hall, King's Road, SW3 from April 30 to May 4. Opening times 10am-6pm daily. Admission £5.

Taking up royal alms

The annual ritual of distributing the Maundy money will take place in Chester cathedral next Thursday. This, the day before Good Friday, is when the monarch gives specially minted coins to a group of "deserving pensioners", while dealers play the role of money-changers in the temple, trying to acquire the coins for resale to collectors.

Buckingham Palace is sniffy about this secondary ritual, saying it soils one of our most ancient traditions. But the dealers say that the original purpose of Maundy money, or the Royal Bounty as it is also called, was as alms.

"The choice lies with the recipients whether to sell," Michael Harrison, of Coins International of Leeds, says. "The value of the coins may mean more to them than that of cherishing them," he says, adding that a pensioner can exchange a full presentation set for around £250.

It may come as a surprise, therefore, to discover that Maundy money from earlier eras is under-valued as a collectable. A James II set, as new, would be worth £400 to £500, but most sets are valued at £50 to £150.

Maundy money can be recommended as an ideal field for anyone thinking of starting a collection. "They are an endearing little series of coins," Mark Rasmussen, an expert at Spink and Son, the dealers and auctioneers, says. They are also the only British coins produced today in sterling silver.

One useful tool for collectors

Next week dealers will be hoping to snap up some of the Queen's Maundy money

will be Silver Pennies & Linen Towels, the Story of the Royal Maundy, published by Spink (£29.95), which is an essential guide to other categories of royal alms, such as the King's Dole.

Maundy comes from the

Latin *mandatum*, or commandment, and refers to the moment when, after washing the disciples' feet, Christ delivered the command: "I have set you an example; you are to do as I have done for you."

Following his example of

humility, Edward II started the tradition in 1213 of giving food, clothing and money to 13 poor men on Maundy Thursday. Henry IV decided to link the number of recipients with the sovereign's age, a practice that continues today (this year, the Queen will give 66 pence to 66 men and 66 women).

Maundy money dates from 1670; the profiled heads on one side change with the monarch. The earlier the monarch, on the whole, the more endearing the image.

Despite surviving 700 years, the Maundy ceremony nearly died in the 1930s when, according to the Right Reverend David Say, the Lord High Almoner from 1970 to 1988, it was "in danger of becoming nothing but a picturesque and perhaps rather meaningless survival from the past".

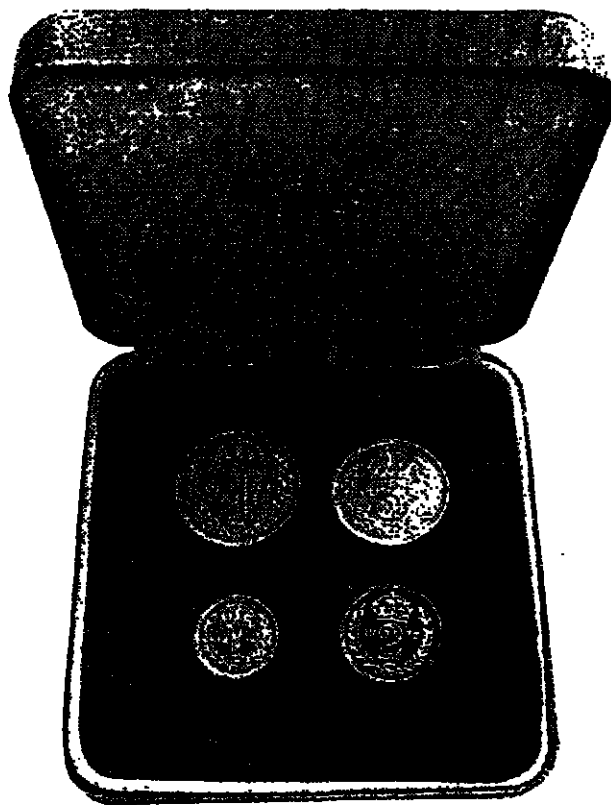
The present queen's decision to hold the ceremony in different parts of the country, returning to London once every ten years, has given it a new lease of life, he says.

Mr Rasmussen at Spink says collectors tend to acquire coins one by one, with the intention of building up a complete set. Sources are the numerous coin fairs which take place throughout the country, and specialist dealers.

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● Silver Pennies & Linen Towels (Spink & Son, King Street, W1, 071-930 7888, £29.95).

● See The Times English Civil War commemorative coin offer, page 37.



Alms: a complete set of Maundy money could fetch £250

Buying beautiful designer curtains can be cheaper than you might think

Draped in style

Designer curtains can be costly, and what do you do with them when you want a change? An innovative answer is a group of seven shops called The Curtain Exchange, which buys and sells good quality, secondhand drapes. The latest shop to open is off the Abbey Road in north London.

Jackie Horsford, the group's co-founder, says: "As an interior designer, I was frequently having to get rid of curtains which were perfectly good but did not go with an altered design scheme, and I found that searching for replacement

curtains led me on an endless round of auctions."

The answer was to set up her own secondhand shop in Fulham, shortly after Liz Weston and Juliana Galvin had started a similar venture in Boxford, near Colchester, Essex. Then the three got to know about each other and decided to pool their ideas.

Customers wishing to sell agree a price with the shop and leave the curtains for up to six months, after which they

are either returned or sent to the charity Shelter. The Curtain Exchange will arrange to collect, takes 40 per cent of the selling price, and never discloses the identity of a vendor.

The group turns away curtains it thinks unlikely to sell. Brown is the least popular colour, and 1960s styles with braided borders do not sell well. "Blue and yellow are popular, and terracotta, chintzes, plain calicos and linens are doing well. Men

seem to like green," Mrs Horsford says.

Among those for sale are a shot silk, pinch-pleated, lined pair with an 84in drop for an 8ft-wide window at £270, and a pair in calico, 140in wide with a 12ft drop, for £420.

The curtains come from private houses, interior designers recouping money from mistakes they have made, show flats and hotels.

KAY MARLES

● For branches, call Mrs Horsford at The Curtain Exchange, 133 Stephendale Road, London SW6 (071-731 8116).



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Taking stock of country life in the raw: Gudrun Holmes and her son Beorn, aged 12, at their isolated stone-built Welsh cottage, a two-mile walk to the nearest road

Alone in the magic valley

In search of the good life, the Holmeses from London tell Brenda Parry how they survive in the wilds of Snowdonia

Many would envy the away-from-it-all lives of Clyde and Gudrun Holmes, but others would shudder at the prospect of doing without the basic home comforts, such as electricity and running water.

Latter-day hippies they are not. Mr Holmes is a successful landscape artist and poet, and Mrs Holmes a German interpreter for Frankfurt University. Twenty years ago, while living in Hampstead, north London, they saw in the ruins of a deserted shepherd's cottage in Snowdonia the chance for a simple, uncluttered lifestyle.

Arranging to meet the Holmes was difficult: they have no telephone and even the postman can't make it to the door. A series of messages left with friends eventually brought Mr Holmes to a public telephone. "You will find us on an Ordnance Survey map," he said, giving me a precise reference. "You can bring the car fairly close, but you will have to walk the final mile or so."

The two-mile walk to Cwm Hegin was no mistake. In spring, but despite the wind and rain there was no mistaking the magic of this remote valley. All signs of civilisation drop from sight; only the screech of buzzards breaks the silence. It was not difficult to believe that last winter their daughter Malka's boyfriend nearly died after collapsing in a snowdrift.

Why move to such a place? "I had lived in the Ruhr in Germany and loved London's concerts, theatres and galleries, but they served only as a compensation for the traffic and noise of the city," Mrs Holmes says. "I never had the rounded and

complete life that I have here."

Mr Holmes was born and brought up in London and went to St Martin's and Hornsey colleges of art after London University. He and his wife had spent little time in the countryside. Now, his first task of the day, at 6am, is to draw and carry eight buckets of water from a well 50 yards away from the cottage for washing and cooking.

The lifestyle in Cwm Hegin is quiet and gentle, even though there is a steady trickle of visitors who arrive in time for lunch, and invariably stay until the following morning. Mr Holmes paints only in natural light in the evenings he works on his poetry, sometimes until 2am. Mrs Holmes writes all her translations by hand. They often work late into the night by the light of paraffin lamps and candles. The family takes it in turn to cook their vegetarian meals. Mrs Holmes tackling delicious pies, cakes and bread. As well as the wood-burning Rayburn, they use Calor gas for cooking.

The north Wales retreat was suggested to them while they were house hunting on a large Welsh estate. Cwm Hegin was a derelict cottage, roofless and deserted for 20 years. For more than a year, they hatched a plan to move from Wales every weekend, making the cottage habitable. Twenty years later they believe they have blended in with their magnificent surroundings of heather-clad hills, with gentle streams and waterfalls and with a tiny lake strewn with water lilies.

As I sat enjoying a freshly baked apple tart in the kitchen, there was little to suggest that life was anything but wonderful for the couple and their two children, Malka, aged 20, and Beorn, 12.

The house, with its quarry-tiled floors, pretty rugs, heavily-carved oak furniture (picked up over the years), and Mr Holmes's paintings on the walls, could be from the pages of *Homes and Gardens*. And yet, the lavatory is outside and bathing is a stand-up affair.

In summer, it is difficult to keep things cool, and in winter there is the opposite problem: the house is heated by the wood-burning stove, an open fire and a tiny stove from an old Canadian railway engine.

Necessities, such as Calor gas cylinders for the cooler and the week's groceries, are bought in Bala, five miles away, and man-handled to the house by the family. Mountain bikes, however, have made it much easier to pick up the mail and the milk, which is delivered to a point on a road nearly two miles away.

"Thursday is certainly an important day in our lives," Mrs Holmes says. "That's the day I take the washing to the launderette in Bala. Some friends say this is a very 'non-alternative' thing to do, but I don't care. Neither do I care that we might look like Bedouins carrying a week's shopping, washing and paraffin back to the bus."

Mr Holmes says it took about two years for the romance of moving into the cottage to merge

into reality, despite the weather sometimes preventing them leaving the house for days. The summer months are the best, when they can swim in the lake and night and day seem to merge into one.

Malka, who was educated by her parents up to A-level, has recently spent a year at college doing a fine arts foundation course. "I liked the telly and being able to switch on the fire at will, but I can't say I ever miss them," she says.

Beorn had his primary education at home, but because of the demands of the national curriculum he is now in his second year at the secondary school in Bala. He walks two miles to the road and takes a taxi for the remaining three.

The family's only concession to modernity is a radio - vital for weather forecasts. "Our life is governed by the weather," Mr Holmes, who depends on the right light for his painting, says. He was one of the artists chosen to exhibit

at the Victoria & Albert exhibition of works by artists painting in the National Parks. His painting, like his poetry, is highly acclaimed.

While he works, Mrs Holmes often entertains. The family has friends around the world. Hill walkers who have sought shelter at the house when the weather has turned bad often join that circle.

"Just because I live in a lonely place, doesn't mean I have to cut myself off from what is happening in the rest of the world," Mrs Holmes says. "When I feel the need for solitude, then I have it."

But even in Cwm Hegin there is no escape from 20th-century technology. Since the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster, the beautiful valley has shown more signs of radiation than anywhere else in the area. The Holmeses can no longer grow their own vegetables or milk their goat, and sheep in the area are still the subject of government restrictions.

But while the land is contaminated, the water from the seemingly bottomless well is still pure, otherwise the Holmeses could be facing a very different future.

Heap of the week: Combe Abbey

A prize to cherish

THERE are almost as many ducks and swans on the moat at Combe Abbey as in St James's Park, London. But venture inside the house and talk to the ladies who run medieval banquets in the ground-floor rooms and they say: "We cross our fingers and hope the rain doesn't pour through the ceiling."

As an "economy" measure the council decided to stop all maintenance in 1985, just after completing extensive stonework repairs. Outside, there are no obvious signs of slipped states. "It's the hidden gutters which are choked with dead pigeons," I was told. "As a result the water gradually works its way into the roof and down through the ceilings. In the doister the falling damp now meets the rising damp."

Coventry Council is unlikely to serve a repairs notice on itself and though Combe is a Grade I building, the secretary of state for the environment has only been known to intervene on three occasions in 20 years to demand the repair of a decaying building. Perhaps a visit from the national audit office would help.

The council has therefore turned to commercial development as the solution, drawing up a scheme with Lumley Castle Ltd, the medieval banquet hotel in Co Durham and the parent company of the Combe operation. What has understandably incensed Coventry's Georgian Group is that outline planning permission was rushed through by Rugby District Council before detailed plans were submitted, in breach of normal listed building practice. The group is also opposing plans to create a golf course in the Capability Brown park and an application to build a visitors' centre beside the entrance avenue.

Reassurance may come from the quality of the advisory team recruited by Millington's, the consultants promoting the scheme. It includes the leading archaeologist Warwick Rodwell,

the conservation architect Martin Ashley, and Hal Moggridge, the landscape architect. It is hoped that English Heritage will make it a condition of any listed building consent that this team is kept together.

The abbey, founded in 1150, became the richest in Warwickshire, but after the Dissolution it was sold in 1622 to the Cravens and remained in the family until 1923. The cloister walks date from the 15th century. The pedimented west range, added to the designs of Captain William Winde in the 1680s, is one of the most handsome Charles II fronts in the country. A vast east wing was added in the 1860s by the gifted architect W. Eden Nesfield, whose father laid out the formal gardens.

In the 1920s the house was sold to a local builder, who stripped fireplaces, woodwork and ceilings and gradually demolished the house to leave a single wing to live in.

Fortunately, during a three-day sale in 1925, many items were left unsold and remained in the house. During the second world war, the RAF moved in and in the 1960s, Coventry Council bought the house and set about reacquiring the parkland.

One course now would be to reconstruct the Nesfield's demolished wing on the surviving early foundations. Mr Ashley says he is committed to creating a new wing in keeping with the house and in the spirit of Nesfield. Everything therefore depends on the quality of his solution and the willingness of the developers to use good materials. Given the importance of Combe, nothing short of the best is acceptable.

MARCUS BINNEY

Further information from David Bates of Millington's on 0208 691944 or Mr Pine at Coventry Leisure Services 0203 833333.



Rotting water, water everywhere... and not just in the moat

Homing in on handouts

How one man saved more than £60,000 restoring his house with the aid of grants

WALK up the stone front steps of Roger Howe's Georgian terrace house in Twickenham, knock on the dark green door, and one is transported back to the 18th century. The house is model Palladian, with its original brick, complete with lime pointing, sash windows with their box shutters, and perfect proportions.

Yet only 18 months ago the house was a confusion of Victorian detail and rickety 1960s extensions. Expensive work, surely? In fact, Mr Howe took advantage of a number of little-publicised government grants and concessions which contributed a hefty £61,501 to his £142,512 bill. As the owner of a Grade II* listed house (a starred Grade II house is more historically interesting than just Grade II), most of his alterations were free of VAT, saving £25,583.

He also received £13,818 in grants from English Heritage and Richmond council, and indirectly saved an estimated £22,100 through free advice from English Heritage and the council's conservation office. The advice saved him from unnecessary work builders might have foisted on him.

The key to unlocking government money for restoring your house, be it listed or not, is the council. Planners must approve



blueprints before they concede a penny in grants or VAT.

Most people ask an architect or surveyor to draw up plans. For a house like Mr Howe's, Renaissance, a Bath-based company which specialises in restoring listed buildings, charges about £1,200.

Applying for government grants is surprisingly informal. The local

planner and architect will discuss improvements and possible grant assistance, usually on site. Grants, which can pay up to 40 per cent of individual refurbishment costs, come from councils (£26 million last year) and English Heritage (£33 million), both of which fund the reinstatement of architectural features and environmental improvement. English Heritage tends to award money for what are deemed more historically important buildings or buildings at risk. Planning permission granted (a charge of about £60 for an ordinary sized house), the owner of a listed building also needs to get "listed building consent" which is free.

Once work has started, a further fee of about £50 is paid to the council for approval that the works are proceeding in accordance with building regulations. The builder must keep a careful tally of all material and work costs so that VAT is not charged. In theory, work involving alteration or improvement agreed by the local council's planners is eligible for VAT concessions, except "maintenance and repairs".

"Repairs are often a grey area," says Adrian Dobinson, a director of Renaissance. "The confusion



comes when work could be described as both an alteration and a repair. For example, a rotten window frame might have to be replaced with a new one. Is this a repair or an alteration?"

There are 700,000 listed buildings in Britain, and 8,000 conservation areas in which similar rules apply. But getting at the benefits is obscured by a government which does not advertise them.

"The general financial system is in place, but only a few people know how to supplement grants with VAT. On average, you could save £10,500 off a typical bill," Mr Dobinson says.

However, John Sell, architect and former chairman of The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, warns: "Only a minority of listed buildings will obtain grants from English Heritage. A large proportion of work needed to keep historic buildings in good repair will be charged for VAT."

Far from preserving historic buildings, the present VAT rules encourage the destruction of original historic fabric, he argues, as VAT concession applies to alterations rather than repairs.

RACHEL KELLY

Plugged in to history

HOUSE HUNTER

Tangmere Cottage
Chichester

Tangmere Cottage was the perfect cover. Its unprepossessing red brick walls, cosy bay windows and clipped lawns are the picture of pleasant Sussex domesticity.

Nobody guessed that during the second world war its true role was as the headquarters of the Special Duties Squadron. The squadron's daredevil pilots ferried Resistance supplies into occupied France and brought undercover agents, and downed bomber crews back to the cottage. Almost 50 years on it is on the market for £225,000.

Temporary French residents at Tangmere included two then future presidents of France, François Mitterrand and Vincent Orléans as well as heroes of the Resistance. British agents who supported them included Peter Churchill and Tommy Vee-Thomas.

"Part of Tangmere's charm was its cosiness, with low beams and log fires. It was quite unlike any officers' mess," Group Captain Hugh Verity, who wrote about life at Tangmere in his book *We Landed by Moonlight*, has said. In his book he describes the upstairs of the cottage as rather like a "cheap Turkish hotel" with the bedrooms crammed with as many beds as could be squeezed in.

Through the kitchen was the operations/crew room, with a big map of France marked with flag-defended areas.



Tangmere: a safe house for wartime flyers and Resistance fighters

After the war Tangmere, near Chichester, was extended and returned to use as a family house, with six bedrooms, three bathrooms, swimming pool, and tennis court.

The only evidence of its past life is

a plug socket in the dining-room floor - put there when it was an operations room.

ANN MORRIS
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Four up, two down

ON THE borders of Tuscany and Umbria, this stone farm building, with half an acre of land, is for sale at £24,864, close to the village of Petrelle.

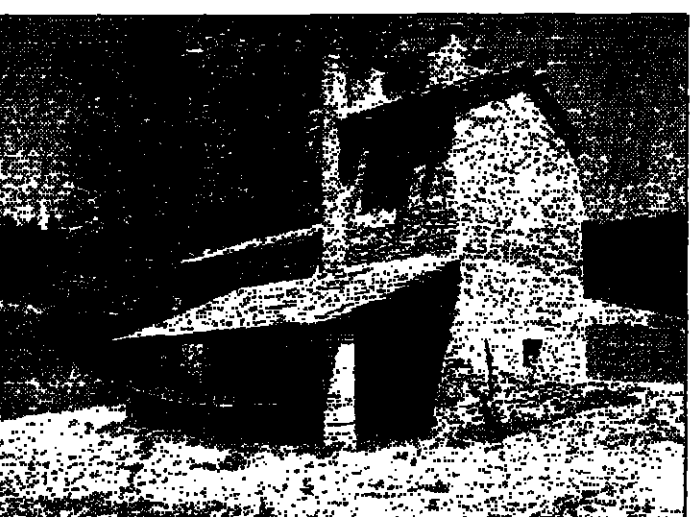
It is 15km from Trestina, which is on main train lines, and the international airport at Florence can be reached in 90 minutes.

The building is structurally sound, but requires extensive work to make it habitable to modern standards. The access



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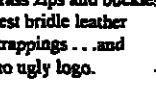
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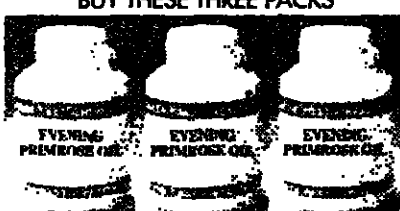


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Most times neither do more than 10% of their market value, in general, they're snapped up by eager traders who create a fortune by reselling this stock to the general public - YOU. It is in their interest to keep the whole procedure as quiet as humanly possible. This has been the case for many years, but now it's your turn to get in on the act.

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YAMAHA TZ2000 ZOOM CAMERA	239	45
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Also included with your handbook are instructions on how to avoid selling yourself up as a dealer, simply and easily. But this is one of these books promising to tell you how to get rich quick, primarily designed to save you money, lots of money. Though you use this information it contains for financial gain, if you should desire, as this reader found out:

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Events for culture vultures

مکتبہ امانت گاہ

How to buy a crown of thorns



Among the worn red plush and the crackle of 500-franc notes: bidders for sacred objects as they are held up for show in the auction rooms of the Hotel Drouot

Josephine Akrill goes to the High Temple of French auction houses and watches the Parisians who will buy anything at the fall of the hammer

In the heart of Paris's ninth arrondissement, a stone's throw away from the Galleries Lafayette, that cathedral to French consumerism, a motley crowd of pilgrims gathers outside a more ancient shrine. *Hauts fonctionnaires* and their fur-coated minions brush with bikers and backpackers, all waiting to get off the busy boulevard Haussmann and into the High Temple of Parisian auction-houses, the Hotel Drouot.

Parisians rich and poor come to pitch their bids in Drouot's genteel but worn red-plush rooms, or simply to imbibe the money-laden atmosphere, and listen to the crackle of the 500-franc notes changing hands.

On sale mornings, when the day's offerings are laid out like ritual sacrifices, heavy-breathing gentlemen in horn-rimmed spectacles steam up the glass cases crammed with Cartier ducks. Priceless pearl chokers are handed out for inspection as nonchalantly as glass beads, to be lovingly caressed by immaculately manicured hands. Elbowing furiously for that delicious little enameled jewel-box, the punters are ticked off like children in a sweetshop by the Chanel-suited *surveillante* — *Asses-yous et attendez votre tour*.

Wine-lovers pandering in front of shelves of dusty *grand crus* bare their teeth and exchange barbed comments. "I'd call my doctor before tasting that '49 Brouilly", quips one oenological expert. "Imbecile", spits an anonymous rival from somewhere in the crowd.

Whispered bids are left furiously with the commissionaires, fresh-faced youths in gilt-buttoned, scar-

let-braided suits. Such absentee bidders were scorned by the 19th-century art-critic Champfleury, who likened them to that butt of French humour, the Englishman, "who, reading about the view of Paris from the Pantheon, sent up his servant to take a look for him".

The cheap and cheery "ventes classiques" reveal Drouot at its most enchanting and affordable. A lapdog in a Vuitton handbag suspiciously sniffs a 1950s pinball machine, whilst its mistress rummages through a boxful of dolls including Barbie, Pierrot, and Mickey Mouse, estimated at 150 francs.

Voters disillusioned with the current "crise politique" could treat themselves to a framed pornographic cartoon of Mitterrand, Cresson and company in a daring array of compromising positions. A rare glimpse into the intimate details of Gallic life can be had at Drouot's renowned specialist sales, which range from an auction of Freemasonry memorabilia to a sale entitled "Les Arts de la Table", where bidders compete for a "cuillère à soupe moulée" — a long-handled spoon allowing the true gourmet to scoop the marrow out of a bone with careless elegance.

"Life was so much more varied in the past," sighs Sophie, a Drouot clerk preparing for an afternoon sale. "Take these chairs — one for playing cards, another for feeding the baby, a third for listening to the

harpichord. Everything is so multifunctional nowadays. People come here to forget their humdrum daily lives and dream a little."

Joseph, Mary and a bevy of saints are up for grabs in Room Seven. Of the scores of collectors and zealots who have come from all over France for this unique sale of "objects sacrés", some, inevitably, are disappointed. A woman who has rushed in from Marseilles, desperate for a stone statue of Saint Matthew, has to make do with plaster versions of Peter and Paul.

Others openly display their outrage at seeing the image of their Lord up for auction. "Je trouve ça scandaleux", announces one poker-faced woman, nevertheless taking a good squint through her pince-nez at a shell-encrusted reliquary containing a morsel of Saint Ursula's skull. She'll be back to bid for it the very same afternoon.

"Everything finds a buyer here at Drouot," explains Sophie, over lunch at the Beaujolais bar opposite the Hotel. "We once auctioned off a guillotined head in a glass jar — reputedly the handiwork of the last executioner in France."

Most spectacular are the "châteaux" auctions, when an ancient country seat is stripped of its contents. The dustier the lots, the more frenzied the bidding. "One castle had an attic full of pigeons — and a treasure-trove of Louis

Quinze furniture two inches thick in bird-droppings. The stench was unbearable, but the bidding went through the roof."

France's highly-qualified auctioneers, known as *Commissaires-priseurs*, enjoy a far from dull working life. The six years of studies which qualify them for the title of "Maître", include Law and Art History, but not, surprisingly, the dramatic arts, as one might suppose from their antics in the auction-room.

According to Eric, a "crieur", whose job is to encourage reluctant bidders, the Drouot auctioneers are as superstitious as the actors at the nearby Comédie Française. "You should see the crises we go through when their favourite ivory mallet goes missing and they're forced to adjudicate with a wooden one."

At 2.30pm, the crowds jostle in under the doors, eager for front seats at the afternoon performance. In the religious room, bidding is the order of the day, with a piece of the True Cross a bargain at 400 francs. "I'll look lovely on your bedroom wall, Madame", quips the auctioneer, flirtatiously, whilst introducing the next lot, a 17th-century walnut sculpture of Christ, minus his Crown of Thorns. A gawky adolescent commissionaire gropes in a box of assorted crucifixes, retrieves the missing crown and clamps it firmly upon the holy brow. In a trice the statue has been paid for, wrapped neatly in a copy

of the *Figaro*, and popped into a black quilted handbag. Flattery, jibes and insults pepper the air — each auctioneer has his own tactic for maintaining the pace of the bidding, which sometimes approaches the dizzy rate of 100 lots per hour.

"Mais ce n'est pas possible!" exclaims one woman, thwarted in her attempt to secure a silver and coral rosary. "Tout est possible ici, Madame!" comes the gleeful reply.

Bidding furiously for Bibles and incense-burners, a perspiring black-gowned cleric loses his nerve, and the lot, with comic regularity. His prayers are answered, however, when a well-dressed, well-heeled man with a solid silver chain worth 10,000 francs, which he carries off proudly, to adorn his parish church in the 5th arrondissement.

As the mallet strikes the oak for the last time, and the auctioneer wipes his weary brow, carpets, cut-glass ware and curtains are loaded into *Deux-chevaux* or lugged down into Drouot's vast cellars, where objects can be left for up to 30 years before being reclaimed.

Over in the Beaujolais the commissionaires are knocking back a well-earned glass of wine and flicking through the catalogue announcing tomorrow's auction — the contents of an 18th-century castle near Angoulême. "It's not a bad little château," says one, pouring himself another glass of *Madec* from the bottle on the counter. Unable to resist the pun, he holds his glass up to the light, and adds with a grin: "But nothing beats a good *Château Balzac* at the end of the day!"

ARTS SOUFFLES

On the ball again

THE migration of jugglers and tumblers is about to begin. Easter marks the point at which hundreds of jugglers and tumblers begin their journey to Germany, Austria and Switzerland, to perform in festivals throughout the Spring and Summer. They come principally from Scandinavia and the Netherlands, but also from Italy, Spain, France and Eastern Europe. A few years ago their numbers so overwhelmed the city of Salzburg, that they had to be moved on by police because they were blocking the pavements. Now, by law they must possess a "Juggler's pass" if they want to perform in public areas. The highlights of the season will be the "4th International Jugglers' and Tumblers' Festival" in Forzheim in Germany on June 27th, and the Festival of Jugglers and pavement artists in Feldkirch in Austria on August 7th.

High scores
THE original manuscripts of Ravel's "Bolero" and Mendelssohn's "Parade" were amongst a number by famous French composers sold on Wednesday (8th April) at Drouot's in Paris. The "Bolero", dug up after a long absence in California, was bought for FF1,880,000 (£180,000) by the French Ministry of Culture, and it is hoped it will soon be on public view at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. They were part of the collection of Lucien Garban, the patron of a number of important composers in the 1920s and 1930s, and Ravel's editor and friend. In June will follow an

equally star-studded sale of 125 hand-written letters by Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Liszt, Janáček and Stravinsky.

Time for a word
THE 8th "Festival of Verbs" started yesterday at Le Mée-sur-Seine in France. "Verbs", we are told "bang, ring and echo, the rhythms of the planet", and during the week-long festival not only verbs, but adverbs, adjectives, nouns, pronouns, suffixes indeed all units of sentence-structure will be explored. Seminars on creative writing will be given by a number of famous playwrights, novelists, poets and song-writers. Linguists will discuss the thorny question of the difference between French spoken in France and that spoken in Belgium, and subversive cartoonists and illustrators will demonstrate how pictures could dispense with the need for words together.

Art on the air
A NEW pan-European TV station called "Arte", devoted exclusively to culture is to be launched at the end of May. From its headquarters in Strasbourg, the new channel will operate throughout France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, and intends to expand in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Spain and Italy over the next couple of years. The programmes will be multilingual and will cover sociological, political and scientific issues in addition to literary, theatrical, musical or artistic subjects. There will be a strong emphasis on regional events and absolutely no advertising.

Flanders flourishes
THE TIMES's April Fool's joke about the division of the French and Flemish areas of Belgium,

evidently struck upon a deep-seated insecurity felt by some Belgians. Introducing the admirable music festival of Flanders that starts at Kortrijk on Wednesday (15th April), its organiser Jan Briers asked in dismay: "Is Brussels capital of Europe or not?" Certainly the festival will bone up Belgium's cultural identity. It lays great emphasis on local talent: Bruges will host a number of baroque concerts to illustrate its influence in the field of ancient music; carillon concerts in Mechelen will remind people of the origin of this unusual instrument, and Kortrijk — a longstanding centre for choral music — will perform a selection of splendid oratorios — an exceptional piece will be Honegger's "Jeanne d'Arc au Bûcher" to be performed on the 30th of this month. The Kirov Ballet, the Royal Philharmonic, The Philadelphia, Vienna Philharmonic and London Symphony Orchestras are just some of the big names taking part.

Lance-a-lot
BEARING thirteen-foot-long iron lances, astride their chargers, the inhabitants of Champagne in the western Loire will perform the strange and ancient "Festival of Lances" on Palm Sunday (12th April). Every year since medieval times a troupe of "chevaliers" have escorted "Judas" and an effigy of Christ on the cross to the local cemetery. Judas, dressed in scarlet robe, is made to pray to the figure of Christ and clamour over the cemetery walls as penance. He receives three coins, as a grim reminder of his three denials. This unusual rendition of Biblical events ends with the lancers trying to break their lances on a post.

CATHERINE MILNER



At Easter Europe's jugglers begin their migration

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

AMSTERDAM

SAMUEL BECKETT FESTIVAL: A programme of dance inspired by the words of Beckett and performed by the Netherlands Dance Theatre. The triple bill features a new ballet by Jan Kuyper. Het Muziektheater, 3 Amstel, Tel: (31 20) 6255455. Apr 17-19 15.

BONN

GESPENSTERSONATE: A new production of the chamber opera by Reinmann, conducted by Neville Dove and Theodor Dorn, directed by Paul Stern. Oper Bonn, Mülheimer Platz 1, Tel: (49 228) 723550. Apr 11, 13, 14, 20.

CANNES

45TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: The annual two-week event showcasing new films from countries worldwide begins on May 7. Cannes Tourist Services (Accueil de France), 5 P. 252 - 06401 Cannes. Tel: (33) 9391977.

COLOGNE

HENRY MOORE: MUTTER UND KIND: A selection of working models, drawings, graphics and sculptures by the British sculptor. Käte Kottwitz Museum, Neumarkt 18-24, Tel: (43 221) 227335/088. Until May 1.

FLORENCE

MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO: The festival boasts 47 musical events this year, including world premieres of Teorema, a music-drama based on Pasolini's film of the same name, and Karol Amiel's new ballet, *Happy Birthday Rosini*. Also, Verdi and Mozart operas conducted by Zubin Mehta. Teatro Comunale, Via Solferino, 15, Tel: (39 55) 27791. From May 3-June 27.

HELSINKI

LA BOHEME: Markus Lehtinen conducts Puccini's opera. Finnish National Opera, Albertinkatu 34B, Tel: (35 80) 129216. Apr 20, 22.

MILAN

LA TRAVIATA: Verdi's opera based on the Dumas novel *La Dame aux camélias*. Riccardo Muti and Amanda Gatto alternate in the part. Teatro Alla Scala, Via

PARIS

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE WINNERS SERIES: The series of four operas continues with a recital of Schubert, Schumann and Liszt by pianist François Kropff and cellist Gustav Rivin. Théâtre du Châtelet, 2 rue Esquaire Colonne, Tel: (33 1) 40282840. Apr 11.

SWEDISH RADIO ORCHESTRA: Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts music by Strauss and Mahler. Théâtre du Châtelet, 2 rue Esquaire Colonne, Tel: (33 1) 40282840. Apr 11.

LA SYLPHIDE: Ballet of the Opéra de Paris performs Pierre Lacotte's historical reconstruction of Philippe Taglioni's romantic ballet. Opéra de Paris Garnier, 8 rue Scribe, Tel: (33 1) 47425371. Apr 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22.

SALZBURG

OSTER FESTSPIELE SALZBURG: The festival opens tonight with a performance of Richard Strauss's opera *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, conducted by Sir Georg Solti (repeated on Easter Monday). Good Friday brings Robert Schumann's *Requiem für Mignon* in a programme conducted by Claudio Abbado. Festspielhaus, Tel: (43 662) 8045361.

VENICE

LEONARDO AND VENICE: This two-part exhibition on da Vinci is built around 16 important drawings from the Galleries dell'Accademia collection, bequeathed to it by the connoisseur Giuseppe Boschi in 1922. The first half brings together these with other da Vincis from European collections on related themes, while the second takes a scholarly look at the effect da Vinci and his followers had on Venetian art. Palazzo Grassi, Grand Canal, Tel: (39 41) 5231880. Until July 5.

VIENNA

THE CHERRY ORCHARD: Dietmar Pfleger's production of the Chekhov play, starring Katharina Böhm, Verena Peter, Susanne Wegener and Rosal Zech. Theater in der Josefstadt, Josefstadtgasse 25, Tel: (43 1) 4055127. Apr 11, 12.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO

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THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

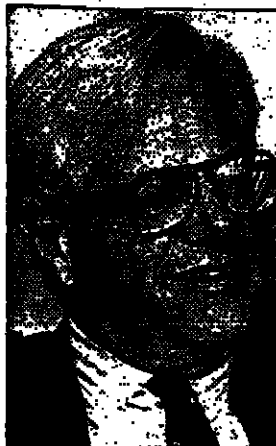
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MONEY

Profile

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of the De Beers companies, has had one business failure, his inability to deliver Consolidated Gold Fields to Harry Oppenheimer, his forerunner. Rejecting claims that the Cons-Gold bid was a failure, his objective is to build an international natural resources business. Page 43

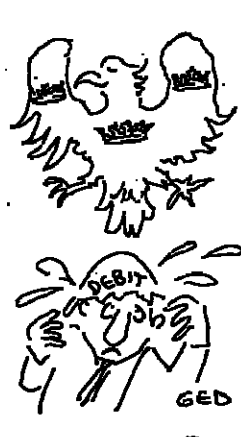


Post election

The Conservatives' election victory might not automatically mean mortgage cuts for borrowers, even if the expected rate cut comes in the next few weeks, lenders said yesterday. Page 45

Lid on bonds

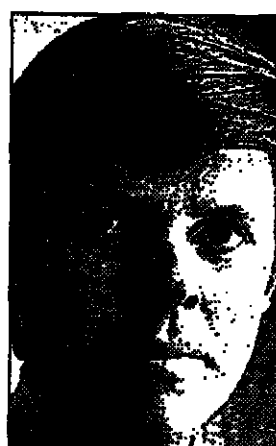
National Provident Institution is to limit sales of with-profit bonds to £200 million this year amid increasing concern that high sales of bonds put strains on reserves. Page 46



Letters Page 48

Tax havens

Offshore tax havens are groaning with money from investors trying to shelter their money from the possibility of high Labour tax rates. William Ramsay, marketing director at Rothschild, says increasing sums are flowing into the company's currency funds from UK investors. Such roll up money funds have proved the most popular. They are a legitimate way of controlling when tax is paid because there is no liability until the fund is sold. Page 46



Paying more

Some homeowners applying for further advances are finding that falling property values mean they have to pay hundreds of pounds in mortgage indemnity premiums. Page 47

Receiving less

Investors who rely on income from unit trusts could have it cut because of a rule that the costs of running the fund must be deducted from fund income fund not from capital growth. Page 47



Black watch

An insurance company that underwrites insurance for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is pulling out of the market, as schemes' effectiveness is called into question. Page 47

Conservative win adds £20bn to share values and brokers predict more to come

Index soars 136 points as City celebrates

BY MICHAEL CLARK AND ROSS TIEMAN

THE stock market celebrated the Conservative election win in style, with share prices posting their second biggest one-day rise as more than £20 billion was added to the value of publicly quoted companies. Despite heavy volumes, analysts said the market was still looking cheap, and could rise higher.

Government securities also posted impressive gains on the back of a strong performance by the pound, with prices at the longer end stretching to 54.

Most business leaders were pleased by the election outcome, but there was little of the euphoria displayed by the City. Expressions of satisfaction were accompanied by renewed appeals for lower interest rates.

City dealers, many of whom had traded through the night as the election results poured in, were jubilant and saying the equity market had further to run.

The FT-SE 100 index soared 136.2 points to 2,572.6, having started the day in unofficial trading with a rise of 163 points, helped by overnight rallies in New York and Tokyo. This followed the heavy falls of the past few days. However, the market is still 2.6 per cent short of its close on Budget day.

Most of the gains in the index had been achieved overnight as overseas and private investors began punning on the outcome of the elec-

tion. It was the utilities, particularly the water and electricity companies, that led the market higher, with gains of up to 20 per cent in some cases. The utilities had been badly depressed in the run-up to polling day by Labour party threats to re-nationalise.

Other privatisation issues also enjoyed support, with BT climbing 21p to 335p and the partly paid by almost one-fifth to 119p, after touching 128p. The partly paid were the heaviest traded shares, with 56 million changing hands.

Volume was heavy. By the close of business, 1.3 billion shares had been traded, one of the busiest sessions since the crash of 1987. Life, the futures market, traded

650,000 contracts, 60 per cent higher than the previous daily record.

BZW is sticking with its year-end target for the FT-SE 100 index of 2,750 and does not expect interest rates to drop much below 10 per cent before the year-end. Mark Tinker, equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is still forecasting a year-end target of 3,000 for the index, along with the rival County NatWest WoodMac.

Peter Meinertzhagen, chairman of Hoare Govett, the broker, is more cautious about short-term prospects. He said there was a lot going on behind the scenes, such as corporate fund raising, government debt and the world economic problems.

Lower interest rates were a universal plea from industrialists, although Sir Allen Sheppard, of Grand Metropolitan, cautioned against premature cuts.

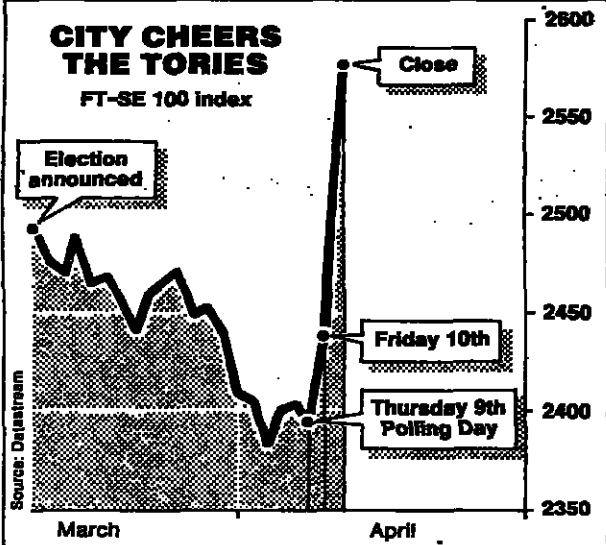
Alan Sugar, chairman of Amstrad, hailed the Conservative win as a "victory for good old fashioned common sense." But he urged the government to "listen a bit more to retailers and businessmen and not depend on the academics."

Sir John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said the outcome was the best business could have wished for. "It removes any uncertainty and allows business to build on the success of the past decade and underscores the importance of continuing to keep inflation under control."

The largest building societies were divided yesterday on whether a bank base rate cut would bring about an immediate mortgage rate reduction. The Halifax said it would want to reduce the mortgage rate at the first opportunity if the base rate was realistic and sustainable.

Tim Melville-Ross, chief executive of the Nationwide, said competition from National Savings would make it harder for lenders to cut mortgage rates if base rates fell by only 0.5 per cent.

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Kinnock to quit, page 1
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CITY CHEERS THE TORIES
FT-SE 100 index

Source: Datastream

Bank cashes in on gilt market surge

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE City's gilt market continued its astonishing surge yesterday in the wake of the Conservative victory. The Bank of England was able to sell gilts worth an estimated £2.5 billion to help fund the government's borrowing requirement.

Gilt prices soared ahead as dealers received buying orders from investors at home and abroad. Simon Briscoe, a UK economist at Greenwell Montagu, said: "Everyone who has a telephone is buying gilts today. The interest is coming from all round the world and the business is all one-way."

The Bank of England took advantage of the rally to sell massive tranches of new gilts. The operation started at 1 am

yesterday, when the Bank announced an £800 million tender. It was completely taken up after five minutes.

The Bank followed that with another £800 million tender in mid-morning, of four tranches of gilts dated between 1997 and 2011. The Bank said this was fully subscribed within 45 minutes.

Throughout the night and yesterday, the Bank's dealers also continued the official gilt sales. Mr Briscoe estimated that the total amount raised was between £2.5 billion and £3 billion. The Bank also announced a gilt auction for April 29, when £2 billion to £3 billion of bonds are likely to be offered.

Bank officials were delighted at the success of the selling programme. "We have made substantial inroads into our funding programme in the

past 24 hours," a spokesman said. The size of the operation did nothing to dent investors' confidence. By the close of trading yesterday, long-dated gilts were up by £3½ from the official close on Thursday afternoon. The overnight rise was £1½ and another £2 was added between 6 am and 8 am yesterday.

The Bank, however, dampened talk of an early cut in interest rates, despite the rise in the pound. It bought bills in the morning at 10½ per cent, its standard rate, showing banks that rates would remain unchanged in the short term.

Stirling's rally petered out as a result, though overnight gains were held. At the official opening, the pound stood at \$1.7742, almost three cents higher than the previous close, and at DM2.8799,

up more than two pence. The trade-weighted index was 91.2, up 0.9.

The Bank of England's move ensured that the pound changed little all day. At the official 4 pm close, it stood at \$1.7725 and DM2.8803. This puts it marginally outside the exchange-rate mechanism's narrow band against the mark, but in a far stronger position than in recent months.

Dealers and economists said the political impetus for rate cuts had weakened. The government would move cautiously to avoid overheating the economy in a post-election boom. "The medium-term prospects for rate cuts, though, are very good," Mr Briscoe said, "particularly if there is a reduction in the German Lombard rate before the end of the year."

Mickey receives the media massage

FROM SEAN MACCARTHAIGH
IN MARNE-LA-VALLEE

THROUGHOUT the week, 70 professional spin-doctors have worked overtime, driving a public relations staff of 1,500, whipping themselves harder and faster for the big day. For them the British general election was mere light relief.

Nicolas De Schonen, corporate communications director at Euro Disney, said: "Our job is to make our guests at the Euro Disney inauguration feel relaxed. To take out of their mind all their worries."

Journalists in particular, 7,000 of them, will be made feel as if they are a part of the extravaganza that is to be unleashed tomorrow morning.

Since 1990 Euro Disney



has run a well-oiled, local press relations machine. Today the corporation employs a 40-strong communications division in Marne-la-Vallee, with another 30 full-time media messengers scattered in London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Milan.

All 70 are in France for the big day, and Disney has temporarily granted Mr de Schonen some 1,500 help-

ers. "We look for good, human qualities in our staff," he said. "They have to have communication skills. We like them to have at least two languages."

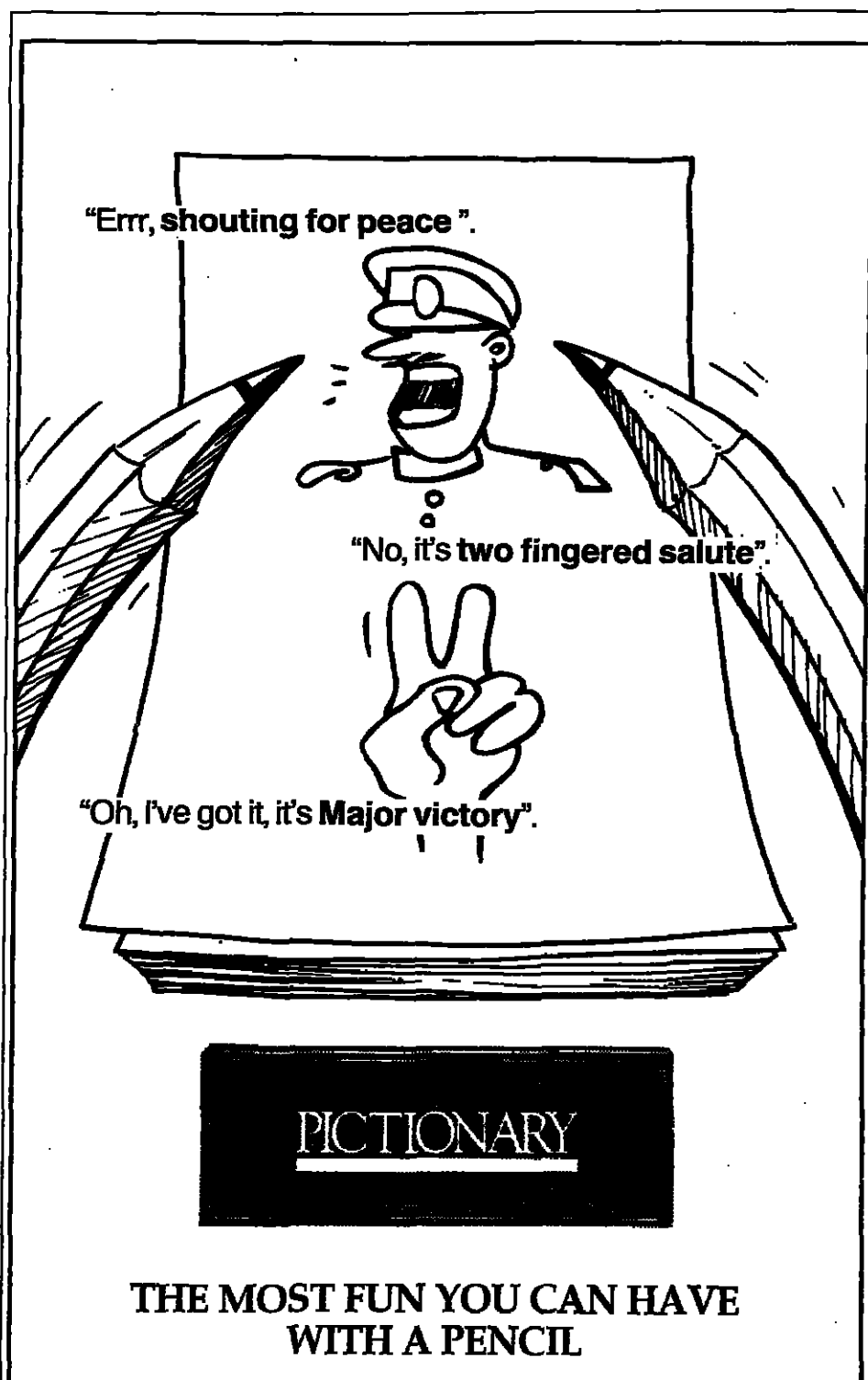
Staff were not paid above the average, he said, but were willing to work hard because it was something new and exciting.

He did admit that the European division had taken

into account the huge stylistic differences between journalism in, say, France compared with America. "What can be done in the US just can't be done here. We're using the Disney method, but in a European way," he said.

Like many large companies, Disney collates a daily round-up of articles written about its activities, and monitors radio and television coverage. The only consistent negative line in the articles, Mr de Schonen said, was an allegation of cultural imperialism.

"But we've been very clear. This is, basically, an American product and we're not trying to hide that. European culture is not under threat from us and will be around for hundreds of years to come," he said.



PICTIONARY

THE MOST FUN YOU CAN HAVE
WITH A PENCIL

Relieved business calls for changes in government's industrial strategy

Optimism returns over pick-up in consumer spending

BRITAIN'S business leaders expressed quiet satisfaction at the return of a Conservative government — and the hope that the way was now clear for a wide-ranging reform in the role of the trade and industry department.

Peter Morgan, head of the Institute of Directors, said the election of a "centre-right" government with a clear majority would remove uncertainty that had been impeding economic take-off.

Sir John Banham, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said it was "of all the possible outcomes... the best possible result for British business."

Sir Allen Sheppard, chairman of Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, and a forthright Conservative supporter, said John Major, the prime minister, was well placed to provide leadership in resolving two key international business issues. He should press hard to resolve the long-running dispute over a new General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, a measure vital to the world's prosperity, and should also use Britain's presidency of the European Community, which begins on July 1, to modify the Community's social policies.

Industrialists also made renewed and heart-felt calls for a cut in interest rates. There was widespread optimism that, with the election out of the way, a quick pick-up in consumer confidence will occur, accompanied by a modest rise in spending. That would allow industry to capitalise on the stirrings of a recovery evident in recent business surveys and reports from companies. But there was a consensus that recovery will be a slow affair, and job losses will continue.

Trade union leaders were gloomy over the outcome. Norman Willis, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said it was "a great disappointment to everyone who believed our country was through the election of a government committed to social partnership between government, business and unions."

Both business and trade unions are looking to government to establish a new, more constructive relationship with industry. Hopes are high that Mr Major will seize his opportunity to recast the trade and industry department as a

new super-ministry with a more positive role in supporting industry, assisting training, and promoting exports.

Graham Mackenzie, president of the Engineering Employers Federation, said: "Changes have to be made in the DIT if industry's confidence in it is to be restored. It has become moribund. It has lost its sense of direction."

Union leaders, for their part, will also be looking for reform within the Labour party. Trade unions have funded much of Labour's campaign, and are sorely disappointed at being denied the "social partnership" with business they sought.

Bill Morris, the general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, said his union would "play a full part in the forthcoming debate as to how to ensure the Tories are removed at the next available opportunity."

Terry Maher, the chairman and chief executive of Pentos, the bookmaker, and a long-standing Liberal Democrat, said the election had emphasised the need for electoral reform. "It is not the outcome I would have liked, but I think the most important outcome is that there is going to be stable government for a period of time."

Business leaders believe improved confidence will take months to make its effects felt across the whole economy, and industrialists, consumers

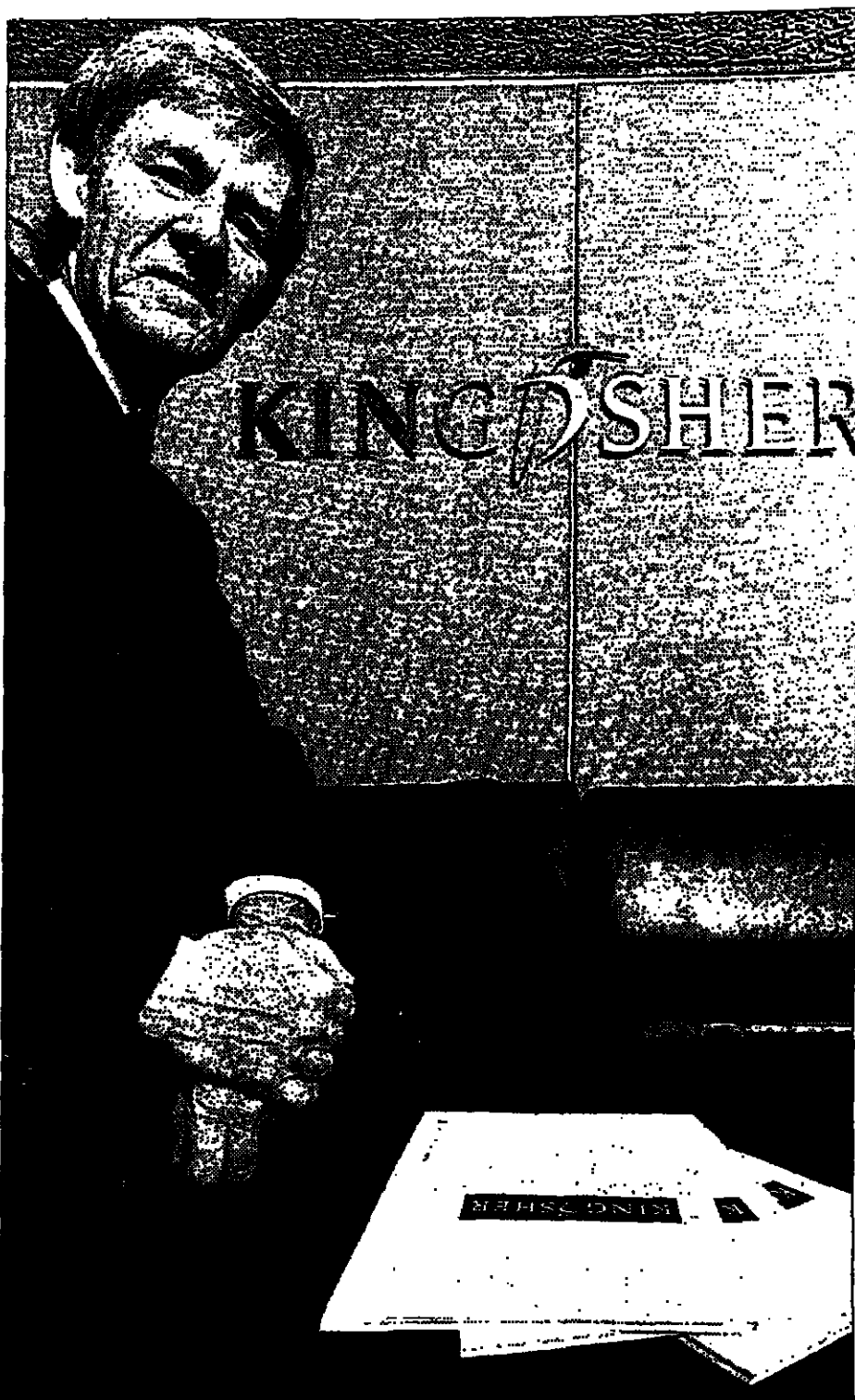
and government alike have been chastened by the experience of the past five years. "I think there will be a very quick upturn in business confidence," said Sir John Banham, "but I don't think we will be going back to the boom conditions of 1988." Mr Morgan thought middle and high income consumers, freed from the threat of large tax increases, might spend with "gusto".

Even so, industry looked forward to steady and sustainable growth. "Given what the Tories learned about boom and slump, I think they have learned some economic management lessons," Mr Morgan said. Industrialists believe productivity growth in British industry has resumed, exports will become more competitive against European rivals, and Britain's attractions for inward investment have been underpinned.

Because of the slump, industrial capacity is adequate. There has been concern over falling investment. But Mr Mackenzie said research and development spending has been maintained through the recession, and he believed companies would now have confidence that steadier demand and better cash flow would enable them to invest in quality improvements.

Even so, it will be some time before any upturn can halt the rate of job losses, now running at 35,000 a month.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent



Stores back in fashion: Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman of Kingfisher

Jobs boost urged in wake of recession

SMALL business leaders are hoping that the return of a Conservative government will lead to the creation of many new jobs.

Britain's 5 million small businesses are looking for investment incentives in the hope of repeating their performance in the wake of the last recession. Between 1985 and 1989, thriving smaller enterprises created a million extra jobs.

Stan Mendham, head of the Forum of Private Business, said: "There is no reason why small businesses should not create just as many new jobs again provided the government removes some of the road blocks."

The uniform business rate, late payment of debts and

red tape affecting small firms are issues on which the forum and other small business pressure groups want further action, while acknowledging measures taken by the previous Conservative government.

The difficulty of raising cash to pay for expansion that might be needed as recession wanes and growth returns worries many small firms. Banks, their biggest single source of cash, continue to maintain a tough attitude towards lending.

The Federation of Small Businesses hopes a government with a smaller majority will "listen that much harder to the small business community". It urges the setting up of a separate source of

SMALL BUSINESSES

bank funding for small, growing businesses. Firms that were expanding and providing additional jobs would qualify for loans. These, the federation suggests, should be offered on soft terms, pitched at the level of bank base rates.

The Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council is speeding up the activities of a working group that is assessing the "financing gap" afflicting small businesses. It expects to put forward proposals to ameliorate

rate difficulties. The CBI has been keen on the creation of local investment companies and would like to see a mechanism similar to the Business Expansion Scheme, now to be phased out.

This, while avoiding BES's problems with property, would continue to offer investment help to small businesses.

The new government could lend a sympathetic ear on investment problems because the previous administration had begun wrestling with them.

Support was given to pilot experiments by local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) to encourage the creation of pools of local investors. It could build on work

by the local investment networking company (Linc) organisation, which encourages regional spreads of local enterprise agencies to act as marriage bureaux, bringing together individual investors and small businesses in need of cash in return for equity.

The CBI has been particularly keen on the idea of a small business bank, which would be adequately funded and that the enterprise initiative, with its help for smaller companies, should be continued in some form by the trade and industry department.

The Federation of Small Business has urged that tax incentives should be given to entrepreneurs investing in their businesses.

DEREK HARRIS

Utilities lead big spending spree as poll euphoria floods market

CITY VIEW

THE UK market suddenly becomes the most attractive in the world. In eleven words Kleinwort Benson Securities summed up City reaction to the election result and justified the surge that swept share prices back to before John Major named the day.

Kleinwort's view, echoed around the City, is that in the last few days UK investors have taken their eye off a ball that has skittled Tokyo, and left Wall Street looking overpriced. With the French and Germans in disarray, overseas investors will embrace the short and longer term political and financial stability now offered by the UK.

By mid-summer Nigel Hugh-Smith at Hoare Govett expects to see the FT-SE 100 at 2,700. County NatWest's Bob Semple went further: "This market will hit 3,000 points in the second half of this year." And Kleinwort's Brennan Hions expects the index to end 1992 at 3,100.

Utilities. Renationalisation of electricity and water was never really on, but concern over a Labour victory had held the shares back. Bulls say electricity shares have some way to go, on the yield premiums they can now expect against the rest of the market. The alternative view of those who took profits yesterday is that these prices are too good to resist. Nigel Hawkins at Hoare Govett thinks Manweb, a star performer since the flotation, a sell, as he does with Yorkshire, but likes Northern and Southern and takes a similar view on water shares, selling Wessex and Yorkshire but keen on Severn Trent and Welsh.

Builders. Contractors' order books remain in the doldrums, but housebuilders will be helped by the Tory win. Andrew McIntosh at Nomura is bearish on contractors, as housing construction output will not rise until 1994, but favours housebuilders with decent landbanks, strong balance sheets and good management, such as Persimmon, up 39p at 284p. At Kleinwort, Jamie Stevenson likes Persimmon, Wilson Connolly and Marley.

Property. Recovery largely depends on interest rates, said Michael Prew of Panmure Gordon. British Land, one of the most highly geared of the quality stocks, has been oversold on interest

rate fears, and should recover, he said. Overseas earners. These might have fared better under Labour when sterling would have bobbed on devaluation fears, and profits would have risen on translation. But those heavily dependent on overseas profits say the problem of advance corporation tax to which Norman Lamont made reference in his Budget remains.

Conglomerates. Fears that Labour would have checked aggressive acquisitions have evaporated. — of greater significance than temporary benefits from currency movements and the minimum wage threat has gone, which saw BET rise from 115p to 126p. And anything that is good for the British economy is good for Hanson.

Stores. These are back in fashion, though big-ticket groups such as Dixons will have the advantage over Kingfisher, or the food retailers, where Labour's tax shake-up was expected to be felt in the cash tills.

Newspaper groups. Now relieved of the bog of competition investigations, were generally stronger. St Ives, the specialist printer, rose 11p to 260p.

Finance. Analysts see better times for merchant banks, consistent underperformers in the run-up to the election on fears that Labour would restrict corporate activity, cutting corporate finance fees. SG Warburg, one of the biggest players, is seen as the main beneficiary. Clearing banks will receive less benefit, said Hoare Govett of Bryan Crossley, but would gain from a return of confidence. Abbey National would benefit from the removal of the housing market threat from Labour's tax changes. Life stocks highly geared to property, such as Legal & General, London & Manchester, and Lloyds Abbey Life are tipped to do well. Among composites, those with big exposure to mortgage indemnity, such as Sun Alliance, will gain from the removal of the threat of more repossession, said Kevin Phillips of Kleinwort Benson.

RECENT ISSUES

Amesbury Smallcap (500)	404	+17
Amesbury Group (100)	109	+21
Amesbury Ind (100)	301	+20
Amesbury Ind (100)	301	+20
Amesbury Ind (100)	301	+20
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RIGHTS ISSUES

Amesbury Ind (100)	301	+20
Amesbury Ind (100)	301	+20
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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The dramatic fall of the Tokyo stock market — despite Friday's rally — puts the prospect for economic recovery in Britain and the US in jeopardy. Japan's big banks may be forced to sell their massive worldwide holdings. Can the West survive Japan's panic?

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Property

firm gains ground

Percy Bilton, the property investor and developer, estimates net asset value at 731p a share at December 31, compared with 720p at the end of 1990, based on a partial revaluation showing a portfolio value of £347.28 million (£341.49 million).

Pre-tax profits for 1991 were £17.47 million (£16.34 million) and earnings rose to 27.7p (25.8p). A final dividend of 12.33p (12.04p) makes 18p (17.44p).

Star losses cut

Losses at Star Computer Group were reduced from £253,000 before tax to £240,000 in the half-year to December 31, leaving a loss of 3.5p a share, against a 3.7p loss last time. There is again no dividend. The company said improved trading made a return to profit likely.

Jacks in red

William Jacks, the motor dealer, said Budget measures to stimulate the car market had yet to make an impact. The company made pre-tax losses of £227,000 in 1991, against losses of £631,000 last time. There is again no dividend.

Property sale

Merivale Moore, a property group, has sold a mixed shop and office block in Reading, Berkshire, for £4.5 million. The building consists of 20,000 sq ft of office space and two shops.

Elys drops

Pre-tax profits at Elys (Wimbledon), the London department store, fell 24 per cent to £879,000 for the year to end-February. An unchanged 14.5p final dividend makes a same-again total of 16p.

STOCK MARKET

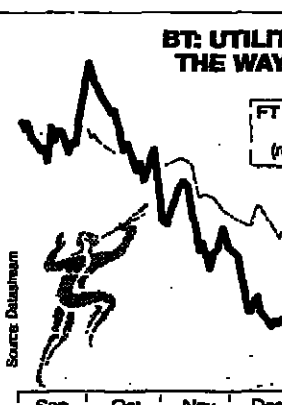
Screens turn blue as shares climb to second largest rise

EQUITIES soared to their second biggest one-day rise ever, with City screens turning in a sea of blue after the surprise Conservative victory. The market continued the early hours of the morning, recovering all of the ground that it had lost since the Budget and the start of the election campaign.

Bleary-eyed dealers, elated that the Conservatives won a clear parliamentary majority, said that aggressive buying of utilities, with plenty of switching, was in evidence, while other privatised and FT-SE stocks were also in demand. All of the FT-SE stocks were showing gains with the exception of Eurotunnel, off 1p to 402p, and MEPC, down 2p to 286p. Sentiment was further boosted by strong overnight performances in New York and Tokyo, with the Dow Jones up 43.6 points and the Nikkei recovering some of the recent losses with a rebound of 1,252 points.

At one stage the FT-SE 100 index had surged ahead by 150.6 points, in very heavy volume. A positive start on Wall Street, with the Dow Jones up 26 points in early trade, helped sentiment in London, although profit-taking was in evidence.

The FT-SE 100 index ended up 136.2, at 2,572.6, which is the biggest closing rise since the 142.2 point advance of October 21, 1987 — the Wednesday crash. The FT index of 30 shares advanced 115.4, to 2,001.1. Volume, boosted by a programme



trade, swelled to a hefty 1.35 billion shares.

Talk of a possible base rate cut helped gilts to gains of up to 4. The government took advantage of the buoyant conditions to continue its funding programme by issuing £1.6 billion of new stock and selling out existing taps. In an unprecedented

move, the Bank of England had issued new gilts during the night.

The latest United Kingdom inflation figures showed a decline in year-on-year inflation to 4 per cent in March, against 4.1 per cent in February, although the fall was slightly short of market expectations. Equity strategists said that a finish to the elec-

toral uncertainty would provide a sharp boost to the market over the next few months. "We are very positive, as everybody is," said Mark Tinker, equity strategist at Kleinwort Benson.

Utilities and privatisation stocks roared ahead, enjoying some of the best advances, although there was some

profit-taking before the end. The water shares gushed forward, adding to Thursday's gains. Anglian jumped 80p to 411p, Northumbrian 80p to 419p, North West 78p to 410p, Severn Trent 63p to 378p, Southern 70p to 384p, South West 53p to 393p, Thames 72p to 416p, Welsh 74p to 430p, Wessex 74p to 456p and Yorkshire

77p to 430p. The electricity distributors also shone, despite coming off their best at the close. Eastern surged 52p to 266p, East Midlands 39p to 266p, London 53p to 306p, Manweb 73p to 362p, Midlands 44p to 290p, Norweb 72p to 329p, Seeboard 63p to 308p, Southern 63p to 285p, South Wales 70p to 333p, South West 60p to 312p and Yorkshire 72p to 347p. The package advanced by £587 to £3,040.

The electricity generators also brightened. National Power rose 19p to 222p and PowerGen 20p to 233p.

There was switching into Scottish Power, up 12p to 95p on a volume of 36 million, and Scottish Hydro, 13p stronger at 98p. Other privatisation shares sporting gains included BT, which rose 21p to 335p, on volume of 27 million, while the BT partly-paid jumped 19p to 119p in the heaviest volume of the day with 52 million shares traded. British Gas rose 8p to 258p on volume of 20 million.

Stores and builders also did well as traders speculated about a possible reduction in interest rates to give the economy a boost.

Among the gainers, Argos jumped 32p to 279p, Body Shop 19p to 349p, Boots 33p to 452p, Burton 31p to 414p, Dixons 26p to 236p, Dunhill 30p to 429p, GUS A 93p to £15.26, Kingfisher 43p to 530p, Next 75p to 72p, and Sears by 6p to 101p.

PHILIP PANGALOS

WORLD MARKETS

Dow makes strong early advance

New York — Blue chips slipped in the late morning after prices in the bond market recovered most of their losses. The Dow Jones industrial average reached 3,257, up 32.04 points, after having been as high as 3,263.

Analysts said that shares were bolstered by Thursday's credit easing by the Federal Reserve and sharp rallies in London and Tokyo. But optimism was tempered by a 0.5 per cent rise in consumer prices in March, which had knocked the wind out of bonds early on. Dale Tills, chief of institutional trading at Charles Schwab, said: "It looks fairly broad-based and generally looks OK."

□ Hong Kong — The Hang Seng index ended up 4 per cent, recouping most of the last two days' losses and boosted by rebounds in Tokyo and New York and the Conservatives' victory. The Hang

Seng surged 191.72 points, or 4.05 per cent, to 4,921.11. Brokers said the Tories' victory meant a smoother transition for Hong Kong before its handover to China in 1997. Turnover totalled a robust HK\$2.83 billion (£210 million), against HK\$2.48 billion on Thursday, with most buying from local investors and institutions across the board.

□ Singapore — Prices rose across the board after weeks of depressed sentiment. The Straits Times industrial index rose 28.09 points to 1,380.92.

□ Sydney — The market closed sharply higher. The all-ordinaries index soared 36.7 points to 1,582.0.

□ Frankfurt — Shares recouped all this week's losses. The Dax index rose 0.9 per cent, or 15.82 points, to 1,736.07. (Reuters)

Nikkei bounces back

Tokyo — Prices soared in a long-awaited technical recovery and the Nikkei index surged 1,252.51 points, or 7.55 per cent, to 17,850.66. Heavy index-linked buying and bargain-hunting lifted share prices after the stock market had fallen for four days in succession.

Thursday's American credit easing also helped sentiment. The Nikkei index achieved its fourth biggest gain in percentage terms and its fifth largest absolute gain ever in a single day. However, it was still down 709.05 points, or 3.82 per cent, on the week.

George Nimmo, of SBCI Securities, said: "Some kind of rebound was inevitable, especially after the credit easing, though everybody is surprised the market has recovered this far."

The Nikkei index rose by 250.81 points in the first 15 minutes and maintained the momentum, closing at its day's high. Lower rates in America and strong overseas markets gave investors some sense of security.

Turnover was about 380 million shares compared with 382 million on Thursday. The relatively modest volume was partly due to the large number of buy-only indications. (Reuters)

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

BUSINESS NEWS 43

BUSINESS PROFILE: Julian Ogilvie Thompson

'Only two sleepless nights I can recall'

Carol Leonard finds the man who reached the top at De Beers made it on merit, not family connections

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of the £7.5 billion triumvirate of companies, De Beers, Anglo American and Minorco, is in discursive mood. Sitting sideways in his chair, his 6ft 4in frame looking long and languid, he is quoting Shakespeare.

"But yet the pity of it, Iago. Oh Iago, the pity of it," Iago. Oh Iago, the pity of it.

Ogilvie Thompson, aged 58, the first non-Oppenhimer to run the group, is talking about his one business failure — his inability to deliver Consolidated Gold Fields to his mentor and predecessor, 83-year-old Harry Oppenhimer. It is clearly a sore point. He criticises a recent article in the *Financial Times* which referred to the bid as having "failed", since it was in fact blocked by the American courts. He is a stickler for detail.

"In normal terms it succeeded," he says. "We were frustrated not because we failed to get the majority of the shares nor because anything was wrong with the business plan, but because of what was, in our view, a mistaken legal view in America. In fact we sold our shares at such a good price that there are people who think we got the first prize. Of course it was a great disappointment, it made a great deal of sense. As chairman of Rhodes' greatest company, you have got to be sorry to see Rhodes' second greatest company, Gold Fields, being split up and scattered to the winds. Of course we made some mistakes, perhaps a number of them, but you have got to put it behind you."

He adds that his objective now is for the group to build an international natural resources business of its own. "It would be nice to see Minorco the size of RTZ one day," he says. People who claim that Ogilvie Thompson — known as "JOT" to his friends — was more disappointed by the outcome of the ConsGold bid than he is, could well be right. He is a man, who is wholly unused to failure and who dislikes it so much that he fears it.

Question him about this re-

less internal pressure to succeed and he will admit that he has had two sleepless nights in his life. One when he was made head of school — Diocesan College, Cape Town — and one, "a decade or two ago, when I realised I might have to be deputy chairman. You have got to be more arrogant than I think I am to be totally confident that you will make a success of it."

The pressure to succeed comes from within, from his competitive spirit. "I had a touch of that necessary vice, ambition. I wanted to win a Rhodes Scholarship and I wanted to go overseas. I think if I hadn't my mother would have given the shirt off her back."

ConsGold aside, Ogilvie Thompson's desires have always been fulfilled. He was regularly top of his class at school, his bid for a Rhodes Scholarship, to Worcester College, Oxford, was successful, while there he met and married his wife, Tessa, younger daughter of Viscount Hampden, then chairman of Lazard's — and he joined Anglo American immediately afterwards.

He became Harry Oppenhimer's personal assistant at the age of 23 and joined the De Beers board at the age of 32. Some people suggest Ogilvie Thompson was groomed for the top from an early age and that he is simply keeping the top seat warm while Nicky Oppenhimer, Harry's 46-year-old son, is prepared for the job. Ogilvie Thompson shrugs his broad shoulders at the suggestion. He certainly has no difficulty working within the confines of what remains, at heart, a family firm.

"The diamond business is full of family businesses," he says. "This business is a big business, run in a family way. Everyone has two or three chances to prove themselves and people in the family will get four or five, but they are not going to become a department head if they are not good. People who say you should never allow children into a business, they are the same people who breed racehorses. You can get a good foal out of an indifferent mare. Therefore you



"Mistakes — we made a few": Julian Ogilvie Thompson ponders the ConsGold bid and his hopes of Minorco rivalling RTZ

should look at them and maybe take an extra couple of looks."

The Oppenhimer family certainly took an extra couple of looks at him even though he was not one of them. He now cuts an awesome figure in the firm. His stature, both physical and mental, is considerable. He is hard working and indefatigable, has a rapier-like mind, can do mental arithmetic as fast as a calculator, and is accredited, even by his adversaries, as being a genius at financial engineering. It was his idea, two years ago, to resolve the anti-South African problem by splitting De Beers into two separate but inter-related companies, one in South Africa and owning the local assets, the other in Switzerland owning the rest. His genius was then publicly acknowledged. He is also reputed to be one of only three individuals who comprehend fully the complicated cross holdings between the Oppenhimer businesses.

Ogilvie Thompson is aware of his reputation. Even close colleagues treat him with care. "People should have a degree of respect for the chairman, perhaps a degree of awe, but they should not feel he is unapproachable. If that means that they are not going to waste his time and are not going to come waffling out with ideas, then that is not a bad thing."

That feeling of distance and respect is somehow accentuated by Ogilvie Thompson's appearance. His suits, although well cut and obviously expensive, have short, angular lapels, a style that was fashionable at least two generations ago. It makes him look older than he is. His manner is so courteous and considered that it too smacks of a bygone age. It is as if he had been trapped in a time warp. Or perhaps it is a South African's slightly quaint idea of how a traditional English gentleman ought to behave. Although

born in Cape Town, and able to trace his family's roots there back to 1689, he has no trace of a South African accent. He sounds British to the point of saying "Orf" rather than "Off".

Some of his adversaries, however — and he has several would say he is not a natural leader, that he runs the group by consensus management and that he is seen by the Oppenhimer family as their personal servant, his primary role being to fulfil their commands. They would claim he has ridden roughshod over lesser mortals in his determination to carry out the family's wishes.

Ogilvie Thompson would deny all of this, save perhaps his management style. But whatever that style, the group continues to thrive in difficult economic conditions. And as for being a personal servant, he is certainly well paid. On top of his salary, in his capacity as chairman of Anglo American

alone he receives \$2.5 million of share options.

The riches that have come with his success, have put him into a different financial bracket to that of his parents, both still alive. His father, now 87, although once Chief Justice of South Africa, was not rich. He describes his childhood as comfortable but careful. "My father was not well, he had stomach troubles and was invalided out of the war. He was on a good salary as a lawyer but it was all taken away in the war years by super tax."

Ogilvie Thompson divides his time between a house in Johannesburg and a 1,200-acre game farm in the Transvaal, drives a Range Rover, buys his wife jewellery and admits to liking "decent food, nice wine and shooting. One gets used to spending money. One wants to be able to house one's children and one wants one's grandchildren to have a good education." In keep-

ing with only the most affluent South Africans, he employs four servants at home — "which is more than many of our friends have but not more than Mr Oppenhimer has" — and an additional "two families" at the game farm. "At least it's a job for them," he says.

It is as he talks about his home and his family — he enjoys a particularly close relationship with his four children, Christopher, 33, Rachel, 31, Anthony, 27 and Katherine, 26 — that a different Ogilvie Thompson begins to emerge. Gone is the careful, considered, rather dry man, known for his meticulous attention to detail.

Instead he comes across as warm and emotional. "There are occasions when one would cry. Yes, I remember coming into Brazil airport and hearing that we had won the Falklands war. You are bound to shed a tear at a time like that. I worry about people who are totally unemotional. But not in business — a generous and enjoyable host, given to impetuosity and with an occasional flash of temper. "It used to be terrible. Tessa knows how to handle it."

General Sir David Fraser, a friend of 30 years, says of him, "He is one of those people who elevates common sense to the point of genius. He is always rational, sensible and objective. Of course that makes for a formidable and extremely successful person in business, who would not give an inch and who could be ruthless, but behind that is an extremely kind, generous and affectionate man, who is great fun to be with."

Ogilvie Thompson, pressed about this other, inner being, says, "Everyone has one recurring dream and mine is that I would like to have a beautiful tenor voice and to be singing in an opera house somewhere. I would bring the house down. It's not because I want people to applaud me, but because it would mean that they had really enjoyed it."

The faithful servant, who still operates with his mentor watching over him, wants to please. But, at the same time, he would like, one day, to receive public recognition for having done something in his own right. It is recognition he already deserves.

General Fraser, aged 72, a veteran of the Grenadier Guards, Nato, and the Ministry of Defence, agrees: "He is one of two or three of the most able people I have met in my life." He would also doubtless agree that the Oppenhimer family is fortunate to have him.

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Something missing from the disaster scenario

EVER had that feeling when you just know something bad is going to happen, but you can't quite put your finger on what? That nasty, gut-wrenching sense of foreboding that tells you not only is bad news on its way but it has your name written on it. You have? Well welcome to the club — you are not alone. As the week has progressed the sensation of teetering on the edge has approached pandemic proportions. The big question is teetering on the edge of what?

But that is the problem with this particular pit-of-stomach premonition. For while it is unerringly accurate on the impending bit, it is achingly vague on the nature of the doom. All we can do is sit, rather queasily, and wait... and worry.

There is certainly no shortage of candidates when it comes to looming disasters. But choosing the right one to put your cross against has never been easy, has it?

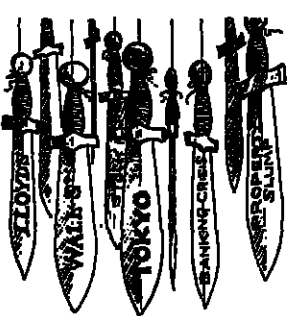
For a start there are the extraordinary events taking place in the Tokyo stock market, which seemingly only needs to open to fall another 500 points or so. For months the Nikkei's freefall has provided Western dealers with a certain smug satisfaction of the "not before time" variety. But their grins were weakening last week, along with just about everything else.

Sparking their concern is the worrying fact that as five-year lows turn to six-year lows in the flicker of a Tokyo trading screen, what had been written off as a problem over there is now fast becoming a problem over here. It is already a problem in America, where the scale of Japanese investment, and thus the scope for Japanese re-

two, the collapse of the world's property markets, looks a prime contender to take its place.

In Britain, all eyes are on Gerald Ronson's Heron International, which has already announced plans to sell £1 billion of property by the end of the century but may find these plans considerably accelerated unless it can bring its rebellious bondholders to heel.

But Heron's problems pale



into insignificance compared with those of Olympia & York, still best known for its towering skyscrapers but in danger of becoming even better known for its towering debts. O&Y meets its banks next week, with the latter well aware that any enforced sell-off of the Canadian group's huge property portfolio in the current market could take until the end of the next century to complete.

In better times the rewards of property development turned many heads. Only this week a West Country developer appeared in court charged with blowing up a listed 19th century chapel in an unsuccessful attempt to build a block of flats.

Goodness, how times change. Now the developers

of umpteen unsold flats and under offices must be giving very serious thought to blowing up their shiny new and ruinously expensive buildings and erecting something more suited to a higher authority. Given the broad church that is property development, the idea could soon see the country liberally littered with bright new chapels, synagogues and mosques, all humming to the murmur of pledges to be more prudent next boom around, if only you-know-who could see his way to sorting out the current mess.

While divine intervention is probably the only answer to property's problems, political intervention is likely to have a greater influence on candidate three — Britain's spending power. However, with the number of cars and new houses being sold both at ten-year lows, estate agents and motor dealers will be praying for a little more of the former and considerably less of the latter.

So if it is not a stock market crash, a property slump, or impending poverty causing the deep-seated sense of unease, what is it? Step forward candidate four, the Lloyd's of London insurance market, already racked by scandal, riddled with descriptions and well on the way to announcing a £1.5 billion loss for 1989.

The matter was almost put beyond doubt this week when Lloyd's announced plans for a consortium that will offer farmers cover for damage to their crops. Given the insurance market's track record, what odds on East Anglia seeing its first ever plague of locusts before the summer is out?

All four candidates are clearly prime contenders to be the disaster that so many clearly feel still looms. But somehow I think I've forgotten something — something important. I'm sure there has been lots written about it recently, but I'm blown if I can put a name to it. Funny, I've got that strange sinking feeling again...

US-style discount outlets in store

BY KAREN WOOLFSON

CARREFOUR, the French-owned hypermarket chain, and Costco, the American group, plan to open giant retail outlets in Britain and continental Europe that will challenge the distinction between retailers and wholesalers. The stores will be modelled on American warehouse clubs, a retail formula that started 14 years ago and has grown into a \$27 billion industry.

Jeffrey Brotman, chairman of Costco, which turned over more than \$5 billion last year, said: "We are looking at each European country to see whether the concept is adaptable." Costco has examined UK locations but declines to say where they are.

George Strachan at Goldman Sachs, New York, said: "It is clear they will be opening in fiscal 1993. There will be a joint venture. It is in an advanced stage of incubation." Mr Brotman said no joint venture had yet been set up but did not rule out the possibility. Carrefour has a 20 per cent stake in Costco.

Warehouse clubs enable retail and wholesale customers to buy branded goods at heavily discounted prices. Customers must buy in bulk and pay a small annual membership fee — about \$30 in America. In return, they can buy top-of-the-range goods at 5 to 10 per cent above cost.

Warehouse clubs rely on high volumes and low gross margins of about 10 per cent, compared with 21 per cent for a UK food retailer and 40 per cent for a UK non-food retailer. Tony MacNeary, a director at County NatWest, says the club formula would threaten UK cash-and-carry stores.

Outlets require huge sites near motorways and people willing to queue up for bargains.

Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart, and The Price Club, which had combined sales of more than \$16 billion in 1991, are also rumoured to be considering expansion in Europe.

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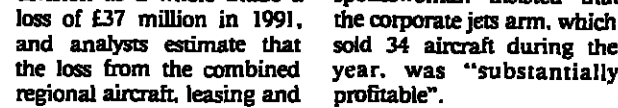
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RISES:			
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Barclays	327p (+23p)	SG Warburg	535p (+46p)
Banco Affili	323p (+18p)	Allied Lyons	833p (+40p)
Hamroff	235p (+22p)	Base	583p (+36p)*
Kleinwort Benson	323p (+19p)	Genet Met	943p (+56p)
Lloyds	396p (+37p)	Whitbread 'A'	431p (+44p)
Nat West	311p (+27p)	RMC Group	573p (+19p)
		Rugby Group	204p (+23p)
		Delta	453p (+18p)
		Sinsley	475p (+20p)
		C Wilson	180p (+18p)
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		Laird	265p (+13p)
		Remit	363p (+33p)
		Closing Prices ..	Page 49

Remember, the price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up; you may not get back the amount you originally invested. Your investment should therefore be regarded as long term. You should also remember that the liability to tax may be the subject of change in the future.

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Figure 6. The effect of the number of iterations on the accuracy of the proposed algorithm. The figure shows two plots side-by-side. The left plot shows the accuracy of the proposed algorithm (in %) versus the number of iterations (from 0 to 100). The right plot shows the accuracy of the proposed algorithm (in %) versus the number of iterations (from 0 to 100).

Although BAe is putting no price on the business, analysts estimated that a 51 per



expected to build about 100.
"The decision was taken

Boeing, its main competitor, announced plans in Jan-

FOREIGN and Colonial Pacific Investment Trust, which invests in 12 countries in the Pacific region, lifted net asset value by 25.2 per cent from 169.3p a share to 211.9p in the year to January 31. The company benefited from a lack of exposure to Japanese banks and insurance companies. Net revenue before tax slipped from £4.34 million to £3.27 million and earnings from 2.57p a share to 1.95p. The dividend is increased from 1.55p a share to 1.75p.

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A mercenary life for brokers

Investors might come to very different decisions if they saw the literature sent to their brokers by life companies. They might also gain the impression that brokers are more interested in the commission they will earn than any other feature of an investment.

Two brochures sent by National Provident Institution to 19,000 brokers recently have no other details on the covers than information about improved commission for the sale of the company's personal equity plans and for encouraging people to switch out of their company pension schemes.

They are not alone in emphasising the payout to brokers. But in its wisdom the Securities and Investments Board does not feel that the same information is relevant to people who invest.

"Earn yourself up to £1,380 every time you sell a Pep Taxbeater," says NPI on the cover of its brochure. Inside it goes on: "For you: increased commission

plus full marketing support" and explains that to get the payout the broker had to sign clients for the maximum £6,000 investment before April 6 and a plan costing £500 a month before April 24.

The second brochure sells itself with the slogan "Commission increased by 5 per cent on transfers up to April 30". Inside it explains that this means brokers selling pensions transfers will get 135 per cent of the old Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation's maximum commission rate for sending in application forms by the cut-off date.

The brochures were sent to Weekend Money by a broker who is unhappy at the way the investment industry is selling the commission rate to the salesman ahead of the product details.

Next month SIB plans to make rules at its board meeting on how



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

much is told to investors. Brokers and life companies have stressed to the board that commission is not important. They say that there is no reason why clients should be told what the broker will get in cash terms, or in a way that can be compared from one company to the next.

It is funny, therefore, to see that industry members wanting to boost their market share spell out the commission to the professionals in such a clear way.

Maybe they are trying to tell us something. While the paying public can understand the full

impact in year one on their investment of all expenses, including commission, by looking at surrender values and the reduction in the projected final payout, brokers cannot follow such complicated calculations. They need the amount they are going to get spelled out simply.

They can then easily calculate who will pay them most and select the appropriate client brochure extolling the investment performance virtues for the next investor.

That may seem cynical, but NPI says that its pension transfers

are running at "over 10 per cent higher" since the mailings were sent to the brokers.

Costly service

Customers from other banks are being blamed for the long queues in Barclays branches. So pleasant are its facilities that customers of rivals are attracted in and clog up the counters, says the bank.

They already pay £2 for this immense privilege, but from June, the price of entering the bank and cashing a cheque from another bank will increase to £5. This is more than it costs to go to the cinema in most of the country, and a great deal less pleasant.

John Cheese, Barclays' personal sector marketing director, cannot seriously expect his customers to believe that people are voluntarily

paying £2 to use the bank's polished counters and centralised queuing systems in preference to their own.

People who use Barclays to cash cheques on accounts held at other banks do so because they are stranded in a High Street that has neither a branch of their bank, nor a cash dispenser that will take their card.

Their numbers can only be tiny, as Barclays' customers will find out when they continue to queue for five to ten minutes every time they want to transact business after June. Then they will know to blame Barclays for reducing staff.

On those occasions when an outside customer does try to get cash over a Barclays counter, the queues could lengthen. It will surely take some time for the staff to try to justify the £5 charge.

It is unlikely to win any customers from those other banks, either, however palatial the surroundings. They will be too fearful of its tariffs for other services if it can charge £5 for a wait in a bank queue.

Early birds queue up to buy units with revived confidence

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

PEOPLE were queuing up to deal when Fidelity opened its lines at 6am yesterday, Mary Blair, executive director, said.

"We expected the UK to recover this year anyway, whoever won. The market reacted very favourably. People should now be looking straight at investments rather than looking at the tax consequences first."

For most unit trust groups the number of ordinary units cashed in has exceeded those bought over the past few months. Personal equity plan sales have, however, been positive. The threat of the tax benefits being withdrawn by a Labour government made them easier to sell. In the first five days of the tax year, Save & Prosper took in £5.6 million in Peps.

Julian Tregoning, director at Save & Prosper, said: "The good news in the recovery was going to come through. A Labour victory might have pushed it back six months

and a hung parliament could have prolonged the wait to 12 months."

The investment group has revised its prediction that the FTSE index would be up to 2,850 by the end of the year. It closed yesterday at 2,572.6. Mr Tregoning said the group now expected 2,850 by September or October.

The funds to benefit most would be the UK smaller companies income and growth funds, he said. In the first three hours of dealing yesterday the growth fund took £2 million.

A fall in interest rates would help the market and encourage investors to look at equities. However, the continued fall in inflation meant that they would continue to get a real return on savings accounts, he added.

At Fidelity, large numbers of investors asked for its Pep brochure in the run-up to the election, saying they would invest when they knew the outcome. The group also re-



Blair: many calls

ceived many calls asking about the investment implications, and on Monday sent all its investors a letter saying what they were: "A result which sees the Tories returned with a working majority, with or without the support of other parties, is, we believe, likely to provide the most positive environment for investors in the short term."

We would expect the UK stock market to show strength, as the uncertainty which currently overhangs the market is removed. In the longer term, the economic recovery should continue, although we do not believe that a Conservative victory, in itself, will do much actually to speed up the recovery."

Tin Miller, marketing director at M&G, the largest unit trust group, said that the £750 million recovery unit trust and the newly launched £130 million recovery investment trust "will do well once the market gets going".

Yesterday morning there were no unitholders wanting to cash in: all wanted to buy.

Fidelity had received a great many enquiries about its offshore money funds during the election campaign. "We got an awful lot of interest. A lot of phone calls but only £5 million to £10 million," Miss Blair said. Had Labour won, Fidelity expected more money to be moved into the funds to avoid paying tax at 50 per cent.



Back on-line: Dealers were in bullish mood as a result of the decisive election result

Savers feel pinch as fears of base rate rise vanish

BY SARA MCCONNELL

YESTERDAY'S Conservative victory removed any immediate prospect of a rise in bank base rates, but as lenders and borrowers confidently predicted an upturn in the housing market, some savers were reminded that they are the losers if rates fall.

Scarborough building society was poised to offer savers with more than £10,000 in a Premier Fix account an extra 1 per cent interest gross, raising the rate to 12.5 per cent gross. Yesterday morning, the enhanced rate was withdrawn as the society believed there was no longer any danger of an immediate rate rise.

John Carrier, the society's deputy chief executive, said: "It was generally felt that there may have been a rate rise under Labour, but now there is a possibility that the rate will come down, and we wouldn't want to be embarrassed. If we had gone ahead we may have had to close it early."

The rate of 11.5 per cent gross is guaranteed on all balances until August 1, when it will roll over to a penalty-free instant access account, initially paying a variable rate equivalent to the society's Super Saving account, which is paying a base rate of 9 per cent gross.

If there is a base rate cut,

other building societies are acutely aware that they will have to remain competitive, particularly against National Savings. They will have to balance the need to keep attracting savings, by keeping rates high, with the need to cut mortgage rates to stimulate the housing market.

The Halifax, the largest society, said that if it cut mortgage rates it would have to cut savers' rates as well, but said: "We are conscious that we need to be competitive."

Tim Melville-Ross, chief ex-

ecutive of Nationwide, the second largest society, said: "We are finding it difficult on the savings side, especially with National Savings having to contribute to such a large public sector borrowing requirement."

National Savings is offering competitive rates on investments such as 36th Issue Savings Certificates, where investors can lock into a gross rate of 8.5 per cent if they hold the certificates for five years. This rate could look increasingly tempting if

National Savings will look increasingly tempting if societies have to cut rates

led by the Abbey National, with no corresponding base rate cut, meant that a half-point base rate cut now was effectively discounted, Mr Melville-Ross said.

However, other lenders appeared to want to move on mortgage rates, even if there was only a half-point cut. The Abbey National, the second largest lender, said: "If there were to be a base rate cut we would consider cutting mortgage rates, even if it was only a half-point."

The Halifax said: "If there

is a realistic and sustainable reduction in the base, it is possible that the Halifax would want to reduce the mortgage rate at the first reasonable opportunity."

Whether or not there is a base rate cut, lenders predict that activity in the housing market will increase significantly now that electoral uncertainty has passed.

The Halifax welcomed the news of a decisive result, saying: "The end of uncertainty is good news for the housing market. Confidence should now return with more house sales and a recovery in prices."

The Halifax's latest monthly price index, out yesterday, showed that prices rose by just 0.1 per cent in March. They fell 5 per cent over the year to March 1992, compared with a fall of 4.3 per cent over the year to February 1992.

Lenders are expecting a recovery in terms of activity rather than prices, which are not thought likely to turn up significantly until the end of the year. Discounts for first-time buyers, combined with good weather, are expected to see potential purchasers turning out over the Easter break in greater numbers than at any time since the election was called in March.

Turnround in fixed mortgage terms

LENDERS continued to withdraw fixed-rate mortgages this week, as borrowers, fearing a rise in mortgage rates under a Labour or hung parliament, locked themselves into rates — and used up all available funds (Sara McConnell writes).

Some of these could now be replaced by lower rates after yesterday's Conservative victory, if lenders can borrow money more cheaply on the money markets. This would reverse the trend of the last few weeks, when lenders, including the Halifax and Abbey National, the two largest, were forced to withdraw fixed rates and bring in higher ones.

Money market rates fell back yesterday, bringing the cost of three and five-year money down to their levels of two or three weeks ago, after shooting up earlier this week. Ian Darby, marketing manager at John Charcol, said money market levels could allow lenders to set fixed rates at around 10.5 per cent. Without the confirmation of yesterday's election result, the rate for relaunched fixed rates would definitely have been 11 per cent.

John Charcol withdrew its rate of 9.95 per cent fixed for ten years on Wednes-

day after all the funds were used up. It is waiting to see how the money markets react after the election before arranging another tranche of money.

Cheltenham & Gloucester withdrew its five-year fixed-rate mortgage at 10.6 per cent at 5 pm on election day, because the funds had all been allocated. "There was tremendous demand for it, and it went very quickly," said the C&G. It plans to have a new fixed-rate loan on offer next week. Details have not yet been negotiated. "It may be over a shorter term," said Britain's sixth largest society.

Last summer, when it replaced a fixed-rate mortgage offer with one at a lower rate after markets moved, the society allowed all the applicants for the more expensive loans to transfer automatically to the new one.

If base rates fall half a point to 10 per cent, the variable mortgage rate will probably follow, giving a standard variable rate of 10.49 per cent to borrowers with no discounts. Borrowers who have arranged fixed-rate mortgages may feel they could get a better deal by reverting to a variable rate, particularly if there are promises of further cuts. They could

well be wrong. Over the last ten years the average variable mortgage rate has been 12.7 per cent, so anyone locking themselves in now could save a lot of money.

Backing out of a fixed-rate mortgage could also be costly, as lenders will not normally refund upfront administration fees and could charge redemption penalties.

The Abbey National, whose fixed rate is 10.99 per cent until September 1996, will not refund the £180 administration fee if borrowers retreat before completion. People who back out on completion will forfeit 120 days' interest. The Abbey said it made these charges because it had already had to pay to secure the money at the fixed rate.

The Nationwide said that it would not refund its administration fee if the valuation had already been carried out. There would be no redemption penalty to pay unless the borrower had completed.

Lenders do not expect borrowers with fixed-rate mortgages to renege on them, however, as they knew the risk they were taking on when they applied for the loan.

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46 WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Roll up, roll up for an offshore tax-saving deal

By RUPERT BRUCE

OVER the last few weeks increasing sums of money have trickled into Britain's offshore tax havens as the tax-conscious have reacted fearfully to the threat of high Labour tax rates.

Most of the money is flowing into "roll-up" money funds or offshore bank accounts. Both are legitimate vehicles for minimising a high earner's tax bill, but are also open to abuse from those who do not disclose their income and capital gains.

William Ramsay, marketing director of Rothschild Asset Management, whose Guernsey-based \$1.1 billion "roll-up" fund, the Old Court International Reserves, is the biggest of its kind, reports increasing sums flowing in from UK investors. But, he added, that the Rothschild fund is marketed throughout the world and "in the context of the whole, the increase is not that big".

For all but the very wealthy who can afford the best tax advice, money funds and offshore bank accounts are the only widely available and legitimate offshore tax-planning devices. When used within the law they simply give investors some control over when their tax is paid.

In the case of "roll-up" funds, income is reinvested

and does not become liable for income tax until the fund is sold. By that time the investor might have retired and be in a lower tax bracket or even have emigrated.

Most "roll-up" funds have a large number of investment options. The Fidelity accumulating fund has 15 currency sub-funds, ranging from the sterling fund, which has a yield of 9.5 per cent after charges to the ecu fund with a yield of 9.3 per cent. Other managers offer bond funds, managed currency funds and equity funds.

Often paired with the "roll-up" funds are the much less popular "distributor" funds. They are identical except that they regularly pay income. They are attractive for either the person who has no tax liability and wants income gross of tax, such as a housewife, or a wealthy investor in the top tax bracket who wants to defer his income tax until the end of the tax year. They can also establish a useful loss to set against capital gains.

Offshore bank accounts have a similar appeal for those who want to defer tax until the end of the year as they pay income gross, unlike UK accounts which pay net.

One of the Leeds Overseas' most popular accounts pays interest on March 31, just

before the end of the tax year. The rates paid by the Leeds to UK residents on its most popular three-month notice account range between 8.45 per cent and 10.55 per cent.

For those living and working abroad who are not liable to UK tax, offshore investments have wider uses. David Brewer, partner and head of financial services at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte in Jersey, said: "What the offshore centre sells them is stability. They want sterling because they are one day going to come back and the UK is their home. Often these are people working in Africa, the Middle East, or the Far East. They are nervous about investing in banks of their location and they trust the British offshore locations."

But investing in the offshore centres around Britain has its hazards. Bank accounts are not protected by the UK's Deposit Protection Scheme. And getting probate, that is proving a will, for inheritance tax purposes can prove expensive.

For those who do not respect the tax laws there are even greater dangers, but there are also great opportunities. Neither money managers nor bankers give information to the Inland Revenue. It is therefore up to



Flowing in: William Ramsay sees an increase

investors to declare any tax and they may pay penalties if they do not do so.

An advertisement for the Leeds Overseas recently running in the national newspapers spelled this out. Headed: A swing to the Isle of Man before polling day is likely to result in substantial gains, it stated that interest was paid gross, that accounts were secure and confidential, and "whatever the result of the election, as far as tax is concerned, it's you that must make the declaration".

According to David Andrew, head of savings at the Leeds, he is not trying to encourage depositors to evade tax. He says that depositors are told, in writing, before they open an account that they have a duty to keep the Inland Revenue informed.

Although there is no mention of this in the advertisement, he says depositors are encouraged to open these accounts for the cash flow reasons already explained. Anyone thinking of evading tax should remember there are draconian penalties. The Inland Revenue can take any tax owed, plus interest and impose fines of up to 100 per cent of the sum owed. In extreme cases it can launch a criminal prosecution.

The Inland Revenue's Section 739 Group, whose task it is to catch offshore tax evaders, netted £4.9 million in 1990 and £2.5 million in 1991, which seems a very small amount. But some of their successes may not show up in the figures because they are attributed to other Inland Revenue departments.

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Hop on a Chinese bike with Barclays

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE opportunity to invest in bicycles in the land of push-bikes is being offered by Barclays Bank. It has this week launched a fund which will invest in Chinese "B" shares in the Shenzhen and Shanghai markets of the People's Republic of China, including those in China Cycle, the world's largest manufacturer of bicycles.

Barclays China aims to raise \$40 million to invest in those Chinese companies that

have "B" shares. These are the only shares available to foreigners. The number of this class of share is rising quickly. Currently, Southern China Glass; Shanghai Vacuum, an electronics company; Shenzhen Konka, an assembler of colour televisions; Shenzhen Property, a property developer and Shenzhen Petrochemicals are, together with China Cycles, the only companies offering "B" shares. They will soon be joined by Huafu Electronics and by the end of the year the number is expected to total 30.

As the fund will invest a maximum of 5 per cent in any one company, Walter Wu, the fund manager, will initially invest in Hong Kong and Taiwan companies with Chinese investment links and in cash until the range of "B" shares will allow full investment in China.

John Kelly, Barclays Unit-trust investment director, said the fund, which is based in Jersey and managed in Hong Kong, is for the more sophisticated investor. The Chinese



Pedal power in China

market is currently displaying some of the volatility of the immature SE Asian markets, said Mr Kelly.

The fund, which closes its launch period on Wednesday is open to both personal and institutional investors.

Mr Kelly said: "Institutional investors see this an opportunity to get into an attractive market. China is a most exciting market which has seen growth rates in gross national production averaging 9 per

cent over ten years. In the special enterprise zones of Shenzhen and Shanghai the growth rate is 13 per cent."

While a liberal attitude towards foreign investment and capitalism now prevails, a return to hard line communism and a backlash against foreign investment is a possibility. The two securities markets are still in their infancy and the reliability of the trading and settlement systems is largely unproven. The market's growth has not been smooth. In 1988, it was deemed to be too fast and stamped upon, said Mr Kelly. The price/earnings ratios of many of the "A" shares, available to the Chinese, are reaching as high as 50. Those for "B" shares are up to 24 times earnings.

The open-ended fund, which has a minimum investment of \$1,500 is one of ten Asian selection funds offered by Barclays through a collective investment umbrella company. It is available through brokers, and daily dealing and switching are available. It is not authorised in Britain or Hong Kong.

which means that it cannot be sold to UK investors. They must apply for it.

The front end charge is 5 per cent and the annual management fee is 1.75 per cent. Because of the expected volatility, the fund should be viewed as an investment for at least five years, said Mr Kelly.

Last month, GT launched a unit trust based in Hong Kong, investing in the People's Republic of China. Called the GT Shenzhen and China Fund, it has a minimum subscription of \$10,000 and deals once a week on Thursdays. There is a 5 per cent initial charge and an annual fee, which starts at 0.75 per cent. This will increase to 1.5 per cent when the fund's investment in Chinese "B" shares reaches 50 per cent.

The fund will also invest in cash, fixed-interest securities, instruments with floating interest rates and short-term paper, such as Treasury bills, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances and commercial paper. GT is limiting investment to a maximum 10 per cent in any one company.

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THE M&G GROUP

Reserves concern brings limit on with-profit bonds

By SARA MCCONNELL

NATIONAL Provident Institution is to limit sales of its with-profit bonds to £200 million this year, amid increasing concern that high sales of the bonds could put an unacceptable strain on company reserves.

Life offices have to hold sufficient reserves to cover bonuses already promised on with-profit policies, but investments have been hit by falling stock markets, leading to reduce the level of reserves and forcing offices to cut bonuses.

One other heavy seller of with-profit bonds, Sun Life, announced in December that it would limit bond sales to £300 million in 1992 after selling £500 million worth in 1991.

Both companies deny that one of the reasons for high sales of bonds is that they have been wrongly marketed by financial advisers as a short term, secure alternative to building society accounts.

The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro), which regulates life offices, is investigating possible mis-selling of bonds. It gave companies until last night to send in reports on their marketing material with up-to-date copies of their literature.

The monitoring committee will receive a final report on the investigation in the second half of May.

Some offices could then be required to write to investors who were misled and in some cases pay them compensation. With-profit bonds

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Insurer to cease underwriting Neighbourhood Watch cover

By Sara McConnell

AN insurance company which underwrites household and contents insurance specially for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes is to pull out of the UK market, Switzerland Insurance, which will stop providing cover from the end of June, has like other insurance companies, suffered increased losses because of theft claims. It says its decision to withdraw was not as a result of unacceptable losses on contents insurance.

Malcolm Porter, general manager, said that the company was being reorganised and would no longer be underwriting insurance sold by provincial brokers.

Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others. It is true that there has been an increase in crime, so the account hasn't been as profitable as it might have been. Inflation has also put up the cost of claims — and in a recession people look to their insurance.

The decision comes as two of the largest household insurers, Sun Alliance and Norwich Union, announced huge losses on household contents

insurance, mainly because of theft.

The cost to Norwich Union of domestic property theft more than doubled to £33 million, while Sun Alliance said that household theft claims were up 32 per cent.

At the same time, some insurers and experts are questioning the effectiveness of belonging to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, when many are underfunded and lack commitment from local people.

Strover, the broker that administers the Switzerland Family Guard policy underwritten by Switzerland Insurance, said it was talking to three other insurers in an attempt to find a replacement.

Paul Strover, the chairman, said the main problem had been that Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators were not prepared to recommend the policy to their members. "They did not seem to understand that a sponsor will not continue unless it gets something in return," said Mr Strover.

Policyholders have to be members of Neighbourhood Watch to qualify for the scheme. He stressed that there should be no problem

replacing Switzerland, and no reason why the new underwriter should not keep the premium differential.

Members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes are commonly believed by insurers to be among the safest risks for contents insurance, on the grounds that they are likely to be more security-conscious if they have made the effort to join a scheme. Switzerland's Mr Porter said that Strover's cover was aimed at the type of person who cared

trolling the standards of vigilance of different schemes — and some are more effective than others.

The number of schemes is growing and there are now around 100,000 covering about 5 million households, according to Home Office figures.

Dr Sohail Husain, senior consultant at Crime Concern, who has researched the effectiveness of schemes, said: "The general feeling is that most schemes are not making

'Over the last couple of years we have lost money, but not as much as the others'

enough about his or her property to belong to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

The company's claims experience showed that Neighbourhood Watch was effective at reducing the crime rate in some areas, he said.

Most insurers try to encourage policyholders to become members by offering discounts on premiums, normally of between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. However, there is no central body con-

significant impact at local level. Neighbourhood Watch is one of several performance indicators.

"Initially, police forces were into a numbers game and no consideration was given to how the schemes could be managed, and there was no support or training for co-ordinators. But schemes do have a deterrent effect if there are signs and stickers in windows. They shouldn't be written off."

Insurers have to rely for the

most part on information given to them on proposal forms. Mr Strover said: "We can't go and inspect each house. We have to rely on information coming through on proposal forms."

However, John Brownhill, of Brownhill, Morris and West, a broker in Beckenham, Kent, said that Neighbourhood Watches had to be active to be effective.

The broker runs a scheme designed exclusively for members of Neighbourhood Watch schemes, underwritten by General Accident. Mr Brownhill said: "We go to each house and do a security survey, the same as a crime prevention officer would."

Neighbourhood Watch membership was one element in making homes more secure, said Mr Brownhill.

General Accident is planning to underwrite a further eight similar schemes around the country after the initial success in London.

General Accident said that the schemes "are not just an endorsement of Neighbourhood Watch. They are ensuring that precautions are adequate by risk surveys". GA does not offer discounts to members of Neighbourhood Watch except through



schemes with brokers, preferring to offer no-claims bonuses of up to 25 per cent.

"We haven't had sufficient proof that Neighbourhood Watch works universally. If we are looking at a broad geographical spread, we feel it is better to reward policyholders who do not claim."

Other insurers concede that the standard of schemes

may be variable, but continue to have enough faith in their effectiveness to offer discounts. Sun Alliance offers a 10 per cent protected homes discount to those who have a burglar alarm, a member of a neighbourhood watch scheme, or who stay in all or most of the day.

Steve Taylor, Sun Alliance's superintendent, house-

hold, said: "We like to encourage policyholders to join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We see it as one of many measures which help people become more security conscious. A lot of people haven't realised that nipping down to the shops and leaving the door unlocked means an opportunist thief can break in."

Home improvement loan costs soar

By Lindsay Cook
Money Editor

HOMEOWNERS who have given up trying to sell their properties, deciding to extend or improve them instead, could have a shock when they apply for further advances. A loan of £1,000 could cost £500 or more in indemnity fees. This is because property values in many parts of the country have fallen.

Someone who borrowed 70 per cent of the value of a house in 1988 could find that, because the market has fallen by 20 per cent or more, a fairly small further advance could take the total loan to more than 90 per cent of the new valuation.

Lenders then insist on indemnity cover, which starts at about £4 for every £100 borrowed over 75 per cent of a property's value and rises to £7 per £100 over 90 per cent. Indemnity premiums are charged to borrowers to protect lenders against losses if they have to foreclose and sell properties for less than the sums borrowed. However, borrowers are not ex-

pected to pay for indemnity cover until they take out further advances — and then they have to pay on amounts above 75 per cent of values. So borrowers who in 1988 took out £70,000 loans on properties bought for £100,000 but now worth £80,000, would find the maximum they could borrow from most lenders would be £5,000, as that would take them up to 95 per cent of values. It would cost about £880 in indemnity fees. To borrow £1,000 could involve an indemnity fee of £670. In addition, there could be an arrangement fee and a revaluation fee.

Halifax Building Society, the largest mortgage lender, said it had received more applications for further advances to pay for home improvements. "The fact that people are building on to their homes is an indication that they are staying put, creating space and improving," the society said.

Halifax does not have fixed rules about the circumstances in which it requires a new valuation for a further advance. That depends on when the

first loan was made, how large it was, and the property's value then.

Applicants must provide builders' estimates and details of any planning permission obtained. Halifax charges fees of between £40 and £100 for further advances, and revaluation fees starting at £50 on further advances of £5,000, rising to £70 for £20,000 and then by £5 per £10,000. Further advances are charged at the same rate as the rest of the mortgage.

Abbey National has also seen increased demand for home improvement loans. It, too, charges the same interest rates as on the main mortgages. Loans taken out before January 1988 need further valuations if new ones will take totals to more than 70 per cent of the originals. Loans taken out after that date need fresh valuations if the loans will total 60 per cent of the original prices.

The rules on when a new valuation is required have operated since last November, because house prices have fallen and would leave lenders exposed if they lent large sums on the basis of old values. The National &

Provincial scrapped further advances for most borrowers several years ago. People wanting to improve their homes are offered separate loans over five to 25 years. The arrangement fee, which starts at £50, includes the cost of any valuation that might be required. These are automatically carried out if the last valuation took place more than two years ago. Home improvement loans are limited to 95 per cent of properties' values. Maximum loan is £100,000 and the minimum, £1,000.

Woolwich Building Society requires a valuation for further advances when the new loan will trigger indemnity cover. "It is possible on a £1,000 further advance for there to be a £500 indemnity premium," a spokesman said. The society charges an administration fee of £50 to £100, including any necessary valuation. Last summer, the Woolwich carried out a survey of more than 1,300 owner occupiers. Given the choice of moving or improving, 31 per cent said they would choose to move. But many no longer have that option.



A shock awaits those who need more money to face-lift their property

New SIB rules may cut return on high income unit trusts

By Hazel Spink

YIELDS on some high-income unit trusts seem likely to fall because of new Securities and Investments Board rules on how fund management groups deduct management expenses.

The rules forbid companies to deduct the costs of running a fund from its capital growth. Instead, these costs must be deducted from income the fund receives, which means lower yields for investors. The rules were published at the end of last year and reflect a statement of recommended practice drawn up by the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation.

They are aimed at enabling investors to see more clearly what charges are being deducted and at drawing comparisons between different companies' fees. In the past, companies have deducted charges in various ways. Fund managers are already finding it difficult to maintain yields because recession is forcing many companies in which they have invested to cut dividends.

Elderly investors, who rely

heavily on savings to supplement income, are likely to be hit hardest by the new rules. Exeter Fund Managers is one of the companies which has been affected. The company plans to cut the gross yield on its High Income Unit Trust (ExHIT) by 1.75 per cent from July 1.

In a letter to unitholders, Ian Henderson, the chairman, said: "We are aware that many unitholders chose ExHIT primarily for the high

pointed out that although distributions to unitholders will inevitably be reduced, the trust's capital performance will improve by an equivalent amount, so that the total return to investors should be unaffected."

The Unit Trust Association is considering whether to take up the cudgels on its members' behalf.

Peter Beales the UTA's director of legal and fiscal affairs, said the UTA was

Elderly investors, who often rely heavily on savings, are likely to be hit hardest by the new rules

income it provides and that these holders will not welcome the change", but attempts to obtain a dispensation from SIB have failed, he said.

He added: "We very much regret the need to make this alteration to the operation of the trust."

Traditionally, Exeter has levied all expenses against its fund's capital account in order to maximise income to unitholders. The group has

investigating the background to the case to establish whether and to whom it needed to make representations. "We are currently exploring how many of our members may be affected by these new rules. If there is a vast body, we will make representations in very strong terms," he said.

"At this stage, I can see nothing to suggest that either the SORP or the SIB regulations in themselves prohibit certain expenses being set

against capital," said Mr Beales. Recent developments were particularly worrying because many investors in high-income funds were interested primarily in income and were often not concerned about capital growth, he said. If the new rules did ban expenses being deducted from capital, this clearly undermined the original objective of the investor, he added.

He said that providing the method of deducting expenses was clearly disclosed, there was no reason why companies should not be allowed to continue to deduct them from capital.

Independent financial adviser, Michael Rose, proprietor of Michael Rose & Associates, said: "Exeter's fund is a specialist fund, which is particularly suitable for the elderly who are not too worried about capital growth but are looking for the prospect of growing income."

He added: "I now have to tell my clients, who came into the fund with a view to getting high income, that there is going to be a drop in that income."

SIB said the new rules were based on existing trust law.

BRIEFING

the company's Stewardship income trust. This follows the Budget announcement that the full £6,000 PEP allowance can be invested in unit or investment trusts. The Stewardship trust is an ethical fund investing in companies with products judged to be of long-term benefit to the community.

Investors who put £3,000 or more into Save & Prosper's managed portfolio PEP or dealing plan before May 29 will have their initial charges halved to 0.75 per cent. Those investors taking out a unit trust PEP for a sum of £3,000 or more will receive a discount of 1 per cent on the unit offer price, a saving of up to £60 on a subscription of £6,000.

A plan that guarantees a return equivalent to the original investment after five years, as well as capital growth, is offered by Hill Samuel Private Client Management (Jersey). Part of the investment in the Secured Investment Plan will be put into a Sovereign State savings scheme. This will return a sum, including accumulated gross income, equal to the original investment. The balance will be put into a portfolio of Hill Samuel offshore funds. The minimum investment is £35,000, the maximum £180,000.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society has launched a fixed-rate investment bond that pays 11.3 per cent gross (8.475 per cent net) for one

year on balances of £10,000 or more. A lower rate of 11 per cent gross, 8.25 per cent net, applies to investments of £5,000 to £9,999. The bond will be a limited issue and is available only by post. There is a maximum investment of £250,000.

Holidaymakers whose destinations turn into war zones will still be covered by TSB's travel insurance.

The bank has removed the war risk exclusion from its travel and holiday insurance policy. Cover for medical and other expenses has been increased from £1 million to £5 million and baggage cover from £1,000 to £1,500. Delayed baggage cover goes up to £100. Loss of passport cover is now £250 instead of £100 and personal liability cover goes up from £1 million to £2 million.

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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum and check your share price movements on this page only. Add these to your running total for the week and this page will show the weekly dividend figure on this page. It is essential that you have your shares on a date of the weekly prize money draw. If you do not follow the instructions, your shares will not be eligible for the prize money draw.

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
1	Begbie & Co.	10.00	0.10
2	Begbie & Co.	10.00	0.10
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your weekly dividend for the weekly dividend £8,000 in today's newspaper.

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Platinum prize yesterday, Mrs Betty M Stevens, of Epsom, Surrey, and Mr Robert Stanley, of Hindhead, Surrey, each received £1,000.

1991/92 High Low Company Price % Ch % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Share Price	Dividend
1	ABN-Amro	10.00	0.10
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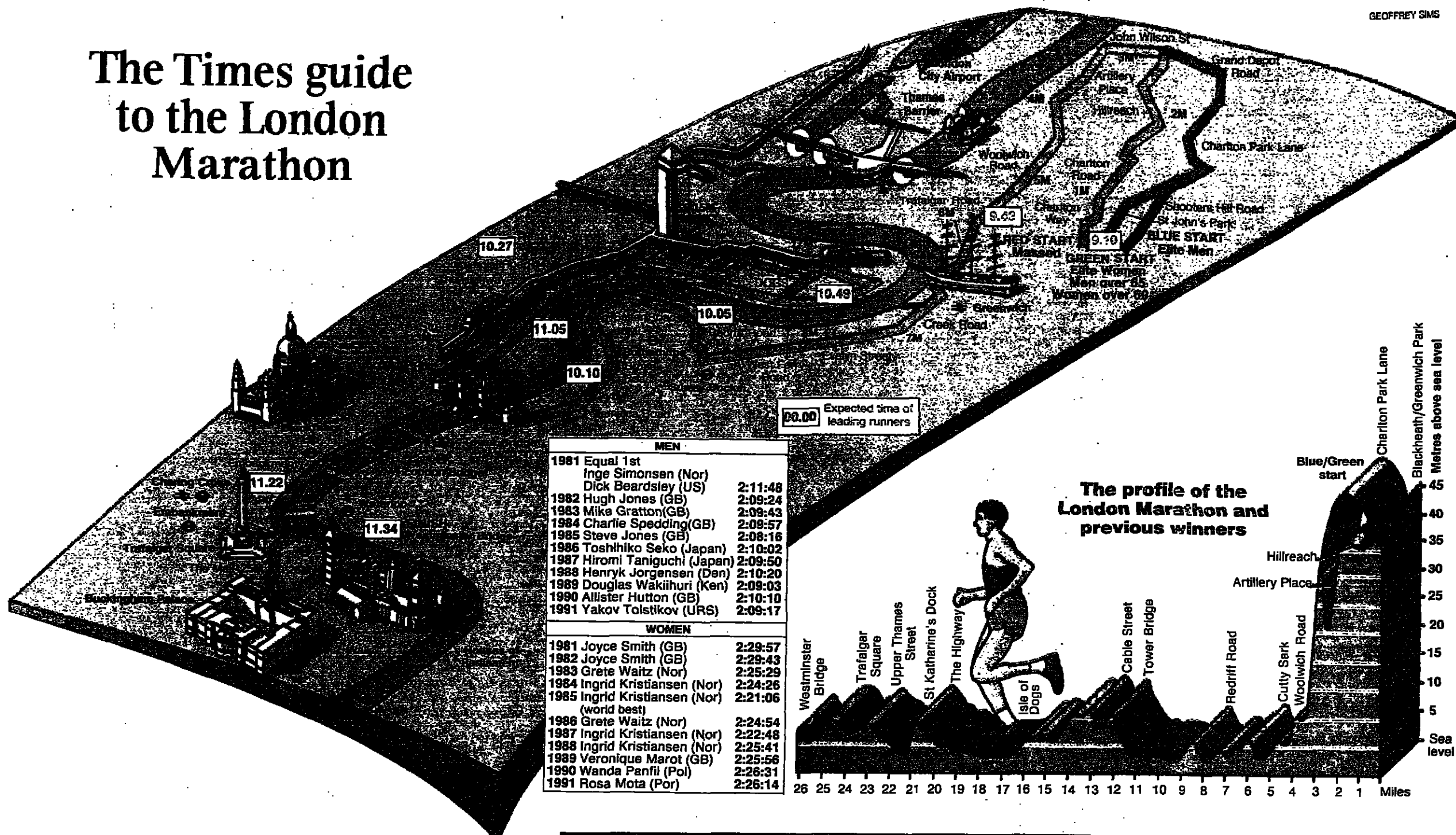
THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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The Times guide to the London Marathon



Wallace not one for the waiting game

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ANDREA Wallace has come a long way in a short time, a concept which will be uppermost in her mind tomorrow morning. The idea is to cover 26 miles, 385 yards in under two-and-a-half hours and be the first of 25,000 runners across Westminster Bridge in the world's biggest marathon. What began as a hobby less than three years ago could blossom into a £50,000 payday.

The ADT London Marathon will send its elite women on their journey from Blackheath at 9.10am, 20 minutes before the men. Unless their race is particularly slow and the men's especially fast it will be ladies first across the line. Wallace, contrary to most expert opinion, thinks it can be her. Your correspondent's view is that, with cautious application, she would be good for a place in 2hr 25min. Wallace, though, has the Liz McColgan feel for talking herself up.

The Olympic and defending London champion, Rosa Mota, is most people's pick for victory but Wallace has other ideas. "I do not think Rosa will run 2hr 24min," she said. "I have got it in me to run around that time." Running round the house used to be Wallace's main exercise. "The daily routine was looking after the kids,

cleaning the house, making the tea, washing up and going to bed — and that was my whole life," Wallace said. "I needed a hobby."

In May 1989 she joined John Hamblin, her runner-boyfriend, on a loop round their house in Torquay. Boyfriend became coach, hobby became vocation, hotted mother-of-two became international traveller with invitations to race all over Europe. And jogger became world road race silver medal winner last autumn.

Nothing, though, paid as well as tomorrow might: £31,000 to the winner (£17,000 for second and £12,000 for third). London has equal pay for equal work: record bonuses, rising from £600 for men under 2:13.30 and women under 2:35.00 to £28,000 for a world best, and identical prize-money structure. Appearance fees on top.

But Wallace must concentrate on splits, not cuts. Her percentage cut of the £216,000 prize-money will be determined by her careful attention to split times. If she is drawn into too fast a pace by the experienced Mota the consequences could be cataclysmic. But her 2:31.36 marathon debut in Carpi, Italy, augurs well. London is a faster course.

In only her second mara-

thon, Wallace might have been better choosing to consolidate her position in Britain. She is, after all, ranked only twelfth all-time. Would not leading the Brits, beating Veronique Marot, holder of the British best time, be a more sensible option than tackling Mota head on? "No way, I would get bored," Wallace said. "I can definitely say I will be with Rosa until 22 miles and then anything can happen."

In their three races so far, all of 10 kilometres or less, Wallace has beaten Mota each time. The results bear little relevance to 26 miles, except in one respect, according to Hamblin. "Andrea would not worry about her ability to match Rosa in a finish." They should note, however, that Dionisio Castro, an accomplished track runner, was outsprung for fourth place in his marathon debut in Rotterdam last weekend.

Aged 25, Wallace finds herself with two hobbies. The other is keeping horses and the two almost came into conflict for the marathon. She was getting up twice in the night to check on her Arab mare, which was due to give birth. On Tuesday, a foal was born and Wallace could stop worrying. His name? Marathon Man, of course.



Straight from the horse's mouth: Wallace hopes her new foal will bring luck

Barcelona-bound Brace joins the selectors' critics

BY DAVID POWELL

RUNNING for Westminster goes public tomorrow and this time a Welshman might win. Steve Brace, from Bridgend, is Britain's best hope to take victory in the twelfth London Marathon. But yesterday was a day for campaigning.

Brace has been named, with Dave Long and Paul Davies-Hale, for Britain's team to run in the Olympic marathon in Barcelona this summer. He thinks the selection was premature, saying yesterday that the British Athletic Federation had left no flexibility for what London might throw up. What if a Briton has a blinder he argued? "I think it will prove so," Brace said. He mentioned Paul Evans (not Welsh) in particular. Evans has been named as second reserve for Barcelona.

The ballot box should still be open, Brace said. Britain's most successful marathon runner of 1991, said. "When asked what selection criteria I preferred, I said I wanted a trial in London on Sunday," Brace said. "Paul could have a blinding run and feel slightly peeved if he beat me. I feel sorry for him in a way."

His view is supported by Alan Storey, the London Marathon race director and

respected coach. "Whatever policy they [BAF] favour, someone will disagree," Storey said. "But a policy that selects the whole team eight months in advance does lay itself open to criticism if an emerging athlete produces an outstanding performance between the selection date and the championship and is left at home."

Alan Warner, the BAF road running chairman, said: "At the time the team was picked (in December) it was considered that a race on this date was too close and people would not recover in time for the Olympic Games." Brace, running his fortieth marathon tomorrow, was selected anyway because he has proven he recovers quickly between them. Neither Davies-Hale nor Long is entered.

Evans may jump the queue anyway. The withdrawal of Sam Carey from London through injury yesterday because of injury calls into question his position as first reserve and Evans may leap over him. The other interesting Briton is Allister Hutton, winner in 1990. Hutton, aged 37, has been showing good form. "I am in the shape I was two years ago," he said, not promising a win but suggesting one might happen.

OTHER LEADING RUNNERS TO FOLLOW



MARK PLAATJES (stateless)
Age 30
Best time: 2:08.58
Former South African granted political asylum in the United States in 1988. Undergoing five-year wait for citizenship and ineligible for Olympics. "This will be my Olympics, I suppose," he says. Best time set in 1985 but confident of improving. Won Los Angeles (2:10.21) last year and was second to Steve Brace in Berlin. Spent £11,000 earnings from running on brother's cancer treatment. The favourite.

PETER MAHER (Canada)
Age 32
Best time: 2:11.48
Pete bet changed him from 18:st Irish drinker and smoker into Canadian world championship marathon runner. On 12 pints a day and 400 cigarettes a week when volunteered for the Cork City Marathon ("I did it for a bet when I was drunk"). Finished in 4:23. Ambitions include 17-year-old Canadian record of 2:10.09. Thirteenth in Tokyo world championship. Uncertain about form but a top-five shot.



PAUL EVANS (Britain)
Age 31
Best time: 2:12.53
Most interesting British newcomer to London. Has shown abundant talent at various distances but took three goes to get the marathon half-right. Failed to finish his first, blew up in his second but ran 2:12.53 in Carpi, Italy, in October. If he gets it completely right in fourth marathon, could surprise favourites. "I want to run under 2:10," he says. Lisbon half-marathon time last month (61:34) suggests he can.

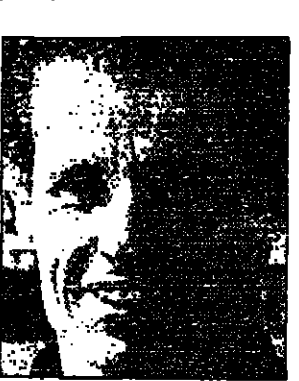


STEVE BRACE (Britain)
Age 30
Best time: 2:10.57
Britain's most successful marathon runner in 1991: seventh in London, helping Britain to win World Cup, and first in Berlin. Fun-runner turned hardened professional. Ran 3:24 in first marathon but now commands substantial appearance fees. Risked upsetting Olympic selectors by agreeing to run here because "London is a good payday", but has been chosen anyway. Fair chance of winning.

YAKOV TOLSTIKOV (CIS)
Age 32
Best time: 2:09.17
London winner last year in time that remains his best. Was his sixth marathon win but first outside Soviet Union. Political change has freed him to make more money, but form has been poor. Dropped out of world championships, 11th in Carpi, 9th in Fukuoka. Hides his cash ("It is dangerous to keep your money in a bank in Russia, you never know what might happen"). Has he been hiding his form, too?



ROSA MOTA (Portugal)
Age 33
Best time: 2:23.29
Most successful marathon runner, man or woman, of last ten years. Olympic, world, European titles: defending London champion. "Every marathon I run is important," she says. Her 1991 world championship defeat was her first championship reverse since 1984. Operation to remove ovarian cyst last May left her short of fitness. Providing she does not suffer recurrence of stomach pains, should win.



KATRIN DORRE (Germany)
Age 30
Best time: 2:25.24
Bronze medals from 1988 Olympics and 1991 world championships. Won 12 of her 19 marathons. Ran 2:27.34 for third in Osaka in January. In process of moving house from industrially polluted Leipzig to rural Odenwald. Gave up medical studies to concentrate on running and bringing up young daughter. No longer supported by East German state system but earns well from running. Second favourite.

JAN HURUK (Poland)
Age 32
Best time: 2:10.16; 3rd last year, 4th 1991 world championships.
MAURILIO CASTILLO (Mexico)
Age 29
Best time: 2:10.47; 7th 1991 world championships, 4th Tokyo Marathon in February.
ALLISTER HUTTON (GB)
Age 37
Best time: 2:09.17; London winner 1990; set his best time in London 1985. Has been running well this winter.

Collection of fund-runners all determined to collect

BY ALIX RAMSAY

THE nine competitors in the Times/Unisys marathon fund-running team are approaching the London Marathon with a mixture of enthusiasm and trepidation, their responses to the challenge they have set themselves being as varied as the causes for which they are willing to risk their pride and their feet.

Leading the Times team home should be William Black and Nicholas Binns, who both aim to finish in 3hr 15min. Black is an experienced runner from South Africa but he almost failed to make the starting line-up. A query from the race director, Alan Storey, over his nationality, had him worried.

"Although I have run in South Africa, I told him I've

always held a British passport," he said. "I've got my number now so nothing is going to stop me."

He started with the aim to raise money to send his friend Trevor Andary home to the United States. Andary, a teacher, was injured in a hiking accident last October, which left him in a wheelchair.

The appeal fund has already reached £1,500, more than the cost of an air ticket, and is still growing. Black, who beat three hours for one marathon in South Africa, wants to raise as much as possible to help with additional expenses.

The main cause for concern in the weather, with most of the runners worried that Sunday will be warm and sunny.

Ken McGuire, from Dev-

on, claims to be a winter runner. He has clocked up 3,200 miles in the last eight weeks and knows that for the first 20 miles he will be fighting fit. But after that, he will have his eyes peeled for a taxi.

"A week ago I was supremely confident but now I have seen the sunshine I am not so sure," he said.

He is running for the British Epilepsy Association, having been diagnosed as having epilepsy in his twenties. As a marathon novice he is not too concerned with beating the clock but he is worried the warm weather could add an hour to his target of 4hr 30min.

John Pennell has no worries about setting a fast time. "I'll be running with the old codgers at the back," he said. His cause is the Alzheimer's Disease Association and already he has £1,000 in the bank for the charity.

"I told everyone I want the donations doubled if they have to be made posthumously," he said having set himself the modest target time of five hours.

TIMES FUND-RUNNING TEAM

26304: John Nugent, Graham Nugent Paralympic Fund
16390: Justin Wier, Brinos
13640: Stephen Cottrell, Starlight Foundation
35088: John Pennell, Alzheimer's Disease Association
35858: Kenneth Maguire, British Epilepsy Association
08212: William Black, Trevor Andary Travel Fund
33887: Douglas Moody, Radiotherapy Unit at Cookridge Hospital
32688: Anthony Stevens, Daneford Trust
08458: Nicholas Binns, Ousest Cancer Trust

Kenbu is too sharp for Hatoo!

Speedy Magic Ring to strengthen claim

Following the filly's classic trial yesterday, the spotlight now focuses on some of the leading colts for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket when they contest the Singer & Friedlander Greenham Stakes over seven furlongs at Newbury today.

The principle in question are Rodrigo De Triano, Lion Cavern and Magic Ring.

In going for Magic Ring, I am banking on his ability to be as effective over seven furlongs as he was over five last season, since he has never been asked to race over further than the minimum trip.

His trainer, Paul Cole, who certainly got things right last year when he amassed more than £1 million in prize-money, and topped the table for the first time, is convinced that he will.

Furthermore, a study of Magic Ring's pedigree suggests he will also, because he is by Green Dancer, who won the Free Handicap over this trip and he is out of a mare by Empery, who won a Derby.

Harness that inherent stamina to the speed that he showed last year when winning the Norfolk Stakes and the Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot, either side of finishing third against older sprinters in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp, and you have a pretty formidable competitor over today's trip.

He should prove too strong for even Rodrigo De Triano, who went through his two-year-old career unbeaten.

My reason for opposing Rodrigo de Triano is the belief that there would have been little between him and Lion Cavern in the Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket last autumn if the latter had

enjoyed a better run.

Subsequently, Lion Cavern went on to at least partly justify that opinion by winning the Morris Hill Stakes on today's track, albeit when starting at 9-4 on to beat weak opposition.

Stiffer opposition is certainly guaranteed today by the presence also in the field of the Gimcrack winner, River Falls, who was beaten three times by Rodrigo de Triano last year, his more-than-useful stable companion Swing Low and Alhijaz.

The latter will certainly relish today's soft conditions, judged on the way that he romped home twice in succession in Italy last autumn after finishing a creditable third to the talented Seattle Rhymé at Goodwood.

Today's nap, though is Saddlers' Hall to win the Lanes End John Porter EBF Stakes in the experienced hands of Pat Eddery.

A late maturing type, who finished second in last year's

Hammond: Ayr chance for Shoon Wind

Blindered first time NEWBURY: 4.00 Cae Best.

THIRSK

MANDARIN
2.15 Sober Lad. 2.45 Norton Challenger. 3.15 Ruhr. 3.45 Carlingford. 4.15 Mainly Me. 4.45 Penny Hassel.

THUNDERER
2.15 Sober Lad. 2.45 Duplicity. 3.15 My Memoirs. 3.45 Vasiliev. 4.15 Nimble Deer. 4.45 Best Effort.

Richard Evans 3.15 Jeune.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 Zaahi.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.15 CLIFTON STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,584; 5f) (6 runners)

1 SOBER LAD 25 (D) J Berry 9-1
2 MOODSWORN 9 (D) J Berry 9-1
3 ARDENAL DANCER 15 (D) J Berry 9-1
4 GAYNOR GOODMAN 8-1
5 SAMANTHA'S JOY 7-1
6 GAYNOR GOODMAN 8-1

2.45 MICHAEL FOSTER MEMORIAL STAKES

(£5,004; 6f) (7 runners)

1 060 GENTLE HERO 182 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10
2 013 NORTON CHALLENGER 114 (D,G,S) M Naughton 6-10
3 018 DUCIPITY 21 (D,F,G) L Hall 8-1
222 PRINCE FERDINAND 165 (D,F,G) L Hall 8-1
4 004 THE ACTION BIDER 21 (D,F,G) L Hall 8-1
5 000 CORN FURIOUS 15 (D,F,G) L Hall 8-1
6 001 ARDENAL DANCER 15 (D,F,G) L Hall 8-1

3.15 TETLEY BITTER CLASSIC TRIAL STAKES

(3-Y-O: £7,570; 1m) (10 runners)

1 203 MY MEMOIRS 21 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10
2 343 JEUNE 8-1
3 164 RUHR 152 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10
4 001 ARDENAL DANCER 15 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10
5 330 BIG BLUE 151 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10
6 001 ARDENAL DANCER 15 (D,F,G) M Naughton 6-10

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Scott, 5 winners from 13 runners, 48.2%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%

NEWBURY

MANDARIN
2.00 Captain Horatius. 2.30 SADDLERS' HALL (nap). 3.00 Magic Ring. 3.30 State Dancer. 4.00 Avila. 4.30 Rajai. 5.00 Grog.

THUNDERER
2.00 Captain Horatius. 2.30 SADDLERS' HALL. 3.00 Rodrigo De Triano. 3.30 Troupe. 4.00 Avila. 4.30 Hatter's Mill. 5.00 Jascorah.

RICHARD EVANS
3.00 Rodrigo De Triano.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 SADDLERS' HALL (nap). 3.30 Mudaffar.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.00 RODRIGO DE TRIANO.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: HIGH NUMBERS BEST STRAIGHT COURSE SIS

2.00 BURGHCLERE STAKES

(3-Y-O: £5,342; 1m 3f 5yd) (7 runners)

1 101 441103 BEYTON 161 (C,F) M Naughton 9-1
2 102 1512 CAPTAIN HORATIUS 161 (D,F) M Naughton 9-1
3 103 662 ALCOY 227 (P) M Naughton 9-1
4 104 92 92 BOLARDO 9-1
5 105 1 PABOUCHÉ 165 (P) M Naughton 9-1
6 106 104444 ROYAL SEATON 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
7 107 521 FEMININE WILLES 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1

2.30 LANES END JOHN PORTER EBF STAKES

(Group III: £18,873; 1m 4f 5yd) (11 runners)

1 201 188182 CORRUPT 210 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
2 202 418220 SADDLERS' HALL 210 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
3 203 102885 HATEEL 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
4 204 102885 HATEEL 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
5 205 102885 HATEEL 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
6 206 102885 HATEEL 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13
7 207 102885 HATEEL 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 4-13

3.00 SINGER & FRIEDLANDER GREENHAM STAKES

(Group III: 3-Y-O colts & geldings; £18,558; 7f, str) (8 runners)

1 301 441103 ALFOLIA 165 (F) M Naughton 9-1
2 302 121111 ALHIAZ 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
3 303 121111 ALHIAZ 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
4 304 14131 MAGIC RING 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
5 305 212123 RIVER FALLS 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
6 306 111111 SWING LOW 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
7 307 111111 SWING LOW 165 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1

FORM FOCUS

ALHIAZ best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners
LION CAVERN best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners
LION CAVERN best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Scott, 5 winners from 13 runners, 48.2%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%

MANDARIN

2.20 Flight Hill. 2.55 Rathvinden House. 3.25 Gale Again. 4.00 Wind. 4.40 Dizzy. 5.15 Night Hawk. 5.50 Abbot Of Furness.

THUNDERER
2.20 Castle King. 2.55 Sunday Punch. 3.25 Gale Again. 4.00 Wind. 4.40 Dizzy. 5.15 Night Hawk. 5.50 Abbot Of Furness.

RICHARD EVANS
3.25 GALE AGAIN (nap).

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM PATCHES) SIS

2.20 STEEL PLATE AND SECTIONS YOUNG CHASERS NOVICES CHASE

(Qualifiers: £3,077; 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
5 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
6 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
7 022111 CASTLE KING 7 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11

2.55 SCOTTISH FARM DAIRY FOODS NOVICES HANDICAP

(HURDLE: £5,456; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
5 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
6 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
7 243111 VILLAGE REINDER 19 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11

FORM FOCUS

VILLAGE REINDER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
VILLAGE REINDER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
VILLAGE REINDER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

3.25 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL'S FUTURE CHAMPION NOVICES CHASE

(Grade I: £13,100; 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
5 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
6 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
7 111331 ARMAGHET 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11

FORM FOCUS

ARMAGHET best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
ARMAGHET best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
ARMAGHET best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Scott, 5 winners from 13 runners, 48.2%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%

3.30 LADROKES SPRING HANDICAP

(£18,075; 1m 7yd, md) (20 runners)

1 401 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
2 402 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
3 403 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
4 404 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
5 405 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
6 406 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1
7 407 213131 RUDIMENTARY 161 (D,F,G) M Naughton 9-1

FORM FOCUS

RUDIMENTARY best Chichester 2m 11 in 13-runners
RUDIMENTARY best Chichester 2m 11 in 13-runners
RUDIMENTARY best Chichester 2m 11 in 13-runners

4.00 BRIDGET MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,850; 7f, str) (15 runners)

1 501 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
2 502 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
3 503 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
4 504 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
5 505 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
6 506 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1
7 507 ANIMA (Lord Wansbeck) W Harn 8-1

4.30 COMPTON MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £3,874; 1m, str) (24 runners)

1 601 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
2 602 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
3 603 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
4 604 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
5 605 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
6 606 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1
7 607 ANDES 257 (P) M Naughton 9-1

5.00 LEVY BOARD SEVENTH HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £4,077; 1m 2f 2yd) (22 runners)

1 121 030-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
2 122 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
3 123 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
4 124 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
5 125 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
6 126 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1
7 127 000-111 MAD MAJOR 28 (F) M Naughton 9-1

FORM FOCUS

MAD MAJOR best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners
MAD MAJOR best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners
MAD MAJOR best Governor's Imp 2m 11 in 13-runners

4.05 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE

(Grade II: £35,000; 4m 120yd) (12 runners)

1 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
5 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
6 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
7 111331 DALKY SOUND 46 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11

FORM FOCUS

DALKY SOUND best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
DALKY SOUND best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
DALKY SOUND best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

4.40 HARRODS SCOTTISH JUVENILE SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £4,857; 2m) (8 runners)

1 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
5 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
6 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
7 21240 GALLATEER 8 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11

FORM FOCUS

GALLATEER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
GALLATEER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
GALLATEER best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

5.15 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,784; 2m 4f) (7 runners)

1 3240F IDA'S DELIGHT 14 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 3240F IDA'S DELIGHT 14 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
3 3240F IDA'S DELIGHT 14 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
4 3240F IDA'S DELIGHT 14 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
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FORM FOCUS

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IDA'S DELIGHT best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
IDA'S DELIGHT best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

5.50 ROYAL BURGH OF AYR HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,629; 2m) (7 runners)

1 1433-0 ONE FOR THE POT 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
2 1433-0 ONE FOR THE POT 26 (D,F,G) M Naughton 5-11
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FORM FOCUS

ONE FOR THE POT best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
ONE FOR THE POT best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners
ONE FOR THE POT best Trenchard Valley 3m 11 in 13-runners

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: A Scott, 5 winners from 13 runners, 48.2%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%
JOCKEYS: R Hall, 5 winners from 13 runners, 38.5%

England B team loses its experienced scrum half

Bates pulls out to leave selectors with tour vacancy

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE England B team to tour New Zealand in June that was decided last night will not include Steve Bates, the experienced Wasps scrum half, when it is announced on Monday. Bates, who plays today in the crucial Courage Clubs Championship match against Orrell, has withdrawn from contention because of his work commitments.

His decision will have come as a severe blow to the tour management, who played him in three of the four B internationals this season and must have been looking at a potential senior half-back combination of Bates and Stuart Barnes, the Bath stand-off half certain to be named as tour captain.

Neither Dewi Morris, England's grand-slam scrum half, who was asked about his availability, nor Steve Douglas, the Newcastle Gosforth scrum half still recovering from injury, can tour. This leaves England looking at their development squad members. Dave Scully, of Wakefield, who played in the B international against Italy as a replacement, Aadel

Kardooni, the Leicester scrum half, who is recovering from a damaged knee ligaments, and Steve Knight, Bath's reserve to Richard Hill. All three are talented players but lack representative experience. More and more the selectors will be regretting Rupert Moon's decision to opt for Wales and the load on Barnes's shoulders will be increased. Other members of this season's senior squad who are unavailable include Jason Leonard and Tim Rodber — both recovering from neck injuries — Nigel Heslop, David Pears and Chris Oti.

As it happens, Bates and Morris will be on opposite sides today as Orrell seek to reclaim the first-division leadership. "Many clubs wind down their training at this time of year but we have decided to intensify the basics, particularly scrummaging," Sammy Southern, the Orrell captain, said.

Perhaps that is where we went wrong last year when, in April, we lost a cup semi-final and three league games by a single score. We have got to be single-minded in our ap-

proach and hope that playing with pace and passion can bring the points." The Lancashire club will not take lightly the club that arrived at Orrell in the league a year ago and won with a late try by Oti — who is on the wing again today.

Northampton, the new leaders after their victory at Leicester on Tuesday, go to Nottingham wary of a side in desperate need of victory to stay in the first division. Should Nottingham pull off a remarkable coup, they will cast a sideways glance to see whether Rugby have gone down to Harlequins, because the two Midlands clubs are at the critical end of the table, just above hapless Rosslyn Park.

There is some trauma at Rugby, too, this week, after the resignation of Alan Foster, their coach. The strain of sustaining the club's astonishing rise in the last five years to first-division status may be starting to tell but Neil Mapletoft, their playing administrator, and Andy Johnson, the chairman of selectors, will desperately hope that the results fall into place.

Francis is a hard player to replace

BY DAVID HANDS

IRELAND'S tour management will decide early next week who will replace Neil Francis, the Blackrock College lock, in the party to tour New Zealand next month. Francis has withdrawn because of pressure of business, knocking away one more experienced prop from an already hard-hit tour.

He is the fourth member of the pack that played against Australia in the World Cup quarter-finals last year to fall by the way and leaves the selectors looking at such inexperienced contenders as Stephen Jameson, from St Mary's College, or Tim Coughlin, from Old Belvedere.

France will tour Argentina in July without Philippe Sella, their captain, Franck Mesnel and Jean-Baptiste Lafont. Sella has not missed a tour since 1984 but Pierre

Bertrier, the coach, believes some players must be rested and the tour gives him the chance to look at newcomers. The New Zealand Rugby Union (NZRU) has had to make wholesale revisions to the world party due to play three internationals against the All Blacks this month as part of the NZRU centenary celebrations. Ten original selections have withdrawn and South Africa's share of the invitations has doubled from three to six — including Naas Botha, one of the contenders to captain his country on their return to the international arena.

Harlequins will field their strongest side in the re-arranged league fixture against Orrell in London on Easter Monday. The match could decide whether Orrell lift the Courage Clubs Championship title for the first time and their closest rivals, Northampton and Bath, will be relieved that this potentially decisive match will not be derailed by mass withdrawals from the Harlequins side.

Harlequins held a club meeting on Thursday night to discuss the matter. Dick Best, the coach, said: "There was a three-line whip which was issued to get home our view that we must play our best side. If we are to have any chance of beating Bath in the Pilkington Cup final on May 2, then we need to be together for our remaining matches."



Close contest: Lynda Watkins, right, of Sutton Coldfield, challenges Hightown's Tina Mawdsley in the England women's hockey cup semi-final at Milton Keynes yesterday. Hightown, who won 3-2, will meet Slough in the final at the same venue today knowing they have already achieved the unique double of qualifying for Europe in both indoor and outdoor competitions this season (Alix Ramsay writes).

In an open and attacking match, the experience of Maggie Sonyave made the early difference for the Liverpool side. She opened the scoring after eight minutes, then set up Tina Cullen ten minutes later to make it 2-0.

But Sutton replied after Jo Toon switched the play wide to Fiona McCarty, in yards of space on the right, then went level in the second half when Jane Swinnerton scored on the hour. Cullen broke Sutton's resistance five minutes later with a well-taken angled shot.

Slough beat non-league Blueharts 11-1 in the other semi-final. Kate Parker and Lesley Hobley leading the scoring with three goals each.

In Williamsburg, Virginia, Great Britain beat the United States 7-0 in a training match. Susan Fraser and Jane Sismith scored twice each, and Tammy Miller, Mary Nevill and Wendy Fraser added one apiece.

Top scorer boosts Surrey

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

PADDY Osborn, of Reading, the leading scorer in the national league, will play for Surrey in the final stages of the Norwich Union county championship today and tomorrow at Clarence Park, St Albans.

Osborn joins Tony Colclough and Paul Smith, both of Teddington, as replacements for injured players in a Surrey side well stocked with top-class forwards, including Knapp and Molloy.

In today's quarter-final, Surrey are opposed by Kent, also former winners of the title. Kent are a well organised side drawn mainly

from Bromley and Canterbury. The odd men out are Neil Gordon from Anchorage and Coombes, formerly of Bromley, but now with Chelmsford.

The winner of the Surrey-Kent game will play either Buckinghamshire or Lancashire in the second semi-final tomorrow. Buckinghamshire, with Shaw, of Southgate and Great Britain, guiding their fortunes, face no easy task today against Lancashire, who beat Cornwall 6-0 and Cambridgeshire 4-1 in the preliminary round.

Somerset, who have called on 13 players from Fire-

brands, including the goalkeeper, Simon Mason, expect to get past the Royal Air Force, but can expect a different ball game in the semi-final against either Yorkshire or Durham.

Durham gained sweeping successes at Bournemouth in the preliminary round, beating Bedfordshire 9-0, Dorset 5-1 and Cumbria 6-1. Yorkshire achieved a 3-1 win over Cheshire, having earlier defeated Northumberland 6-1, Sussex 5-0 and Norfolk 8-0.

Tomorrow's final at the same venue will be preceded by the under-21 final between Essex and Nottinghamshire.

SWIMMING

Bennett leads Nova's charge

BY CRAIG LORDE

ALEX Bennett set a British junior record to give Nova Centurion's women a fine start to the Myci British club team championships in Sheffield yesterday.

Influenced by the magnificent conditions at the Ponds Forge sports complex, Bennett, aged 15, laid to rest any doubts that she is now the nation's leading junior backstroke swimmer by adding the 50 metres record, in

31.15 seconds, to those she holds at 100 and 200 metres. Bennett's efforts, which took her into the final of the 50 metres in third place, just ahead of Sharon Page, the national senior record holder, whose junior record she broke by 0.05 of a second, ensured that Nova had the most women in finals after the first of two sessions of qualifying.

Barnet were best placed in the early stages of the men's events, after the favourites, City of Leeds, failed to place a man in the last eight of the 100 metres backstroke. Stephen Akers made up for Yorkshire's disappointment, however, by winning the 1,500 metres freestyle, a heat-declared winner race, after clocking 15min 37.77sec.

RESULTS: Men: 1,500m freestyle: 1, S Akers (City of Leeds), 15min 37.77sec; 2, S Akers (Sheffield, Newcastle), 16min 24.24s; 3, M Clements (Farnham, Norfolk), 16min 58.14s.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Northern hope to limit the damage

BY KEITH MACKIN

TO ALL intents and purposes, Wigan sewed up the Stones Bitter championship last weekend at Featherstone. But mathematics insists that they gain at least one point from today's home game with Bradford Northern to make absolutely certain.

Wigan will surely do it, especially because Ian Lucas, who has a broken wrist, is the only player missing from the squad that humiliated Northern 71-10 in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

Northern have caused upsets at Central Park in the past and in the corresponding fixture last season they drew 18-18 after leading for much of the game. However, that particular Wigan side was leg weary and riddled with injuries, whereas today's side is comparatively fresh. The best Northern can hope for is to restore some pride by keeping the score within bounds.

There are plenty of other important issues still to be settled tomorrow. St Helens, who hope and expect to finish in second place with home ties in the premiership, are without a match, but Leeds and Castleford have tough tests against relegation-haunted sides as they bid for places in the top four.

Leeds visit Featherstone, who are two points above the relegation zone, and the Huddersley team can expect a reception every bit as tough as that which greeted Wigan. Castleford, who may well be concentrating now on the Wembley final against Wigan, go to Halifax, also too close to the lower reaches of the table for comfort.

Hull, holders of the premiership, need to beat fading Widnes to ensure survival and assuming that Bradford fall at Wigan, Salford will have every incentive to stay above them and by garnering two points against Hull KR, who have their sights set on a play-off position.

CYCLING

Doyle is keen to keep busy

BY PETER BRYAN

TONY Doyle, twice world professional pursuit champion and winner of silver and bronze medals on four other occasions since 1980, has a hankering to return to the discipline this year.

Doyle, one of Europe's top six-day riders, had his season ended abruptly in February by a crash in the Anwerp event, fracturing his pelvis. But Doyle is a battler, as he showed after his near-fatal accident in the Munich "six" two years ago. He returned to win the 1991 race with Danny Clark, of Australia.

Earlier this week he inspired a breakthrough trio in the Archer grand prix road race in his first event since his fall. Tomorrow, he rides in the 96-mile Tour of the Marshes based at New Romney, Kent. "It's a testing course and riders have to expect strong winds off the sea," he said. With rain forecast, the race will not be one for the faint-hearted.

Doyle sees the race as a part of the build-up for an international track programme which could include the world 5,000 metres pursuit in Valencia next September.

Coaching pair work wonders

BY DAVID HANDS

WITH only a fortnight of the league campaign left, Northampton have hit the top of the Courage Clubs Championship at a crucial time. They may yet be overhauled, but the odds are now on others to catch them, while at the same time their young team can savour the feeling — if only briefly — of leading the first division and promising themselves the chance of doing so for much longer.

For there is more to come from the Saints. The evidence is in the youthful strand which runs from Ian Hunter, aged 24, at full back to Gavin Baldwin, 23, at prop, strengthened by the experience of Gary Pearce, John Oliver and Wayne Shelford, and by the maturing this season of John Steele at stand-off half.

They have achieved so much so soon: a cup final last season, league leadership this. It is heady wine for this young vintage, owing much to the New Zea-

land influence of Shelford and Glenn Ross, in his first season as coach. "Glenn's input to the team has been phenomenal," Oliver, the hooker and captain, said. Oliver spent many years with Harlequins under the direction of Dick Best, now the England coach. The sheer force of Best's personality drove players to perform. At Northampton, Ross's key is efficiency.

"No session lasts more than an hour and a quarter. Training is hard, you don't stand around for a minute, but Glenn has it all worked out. We all know exactly what we are supposed to be doing and it's so enjoyable. Nothing is done without a ball. Players are totally clued in but there's nothing regimented about it, it's different each night."

Pearce, capped at prop 36 times by England, suggested he was good for three more years although he is 36. At Franklins Gardens the squad, young and old, is enjoying the balm of success, shadowed only by the knowledge of Orrell's

game in hand and the possibility that Shelford may have to serve a six-month qualification period next season when he returns.

That depends on new eligibility regulations being approved by the Rugby Football Union, although Shelford may well return in the role of assistant coach rather than first-team player. Oliver said: "This six-month rule would be ridiculous for someone who has done so much for Eng-

lish rugby, by bringing on young players like Rodber, Bayfield and Baldwin. "It ought to be like cricket, where each club can nominate an overseas player who can play from the world go."

"We got to the cup final last year as an average side. We had a good pack and we could dog it out with anybody, but there have been subtle changes in personnel. The centres have changed and we have a quality lineup now that Martin Bayfield has arrived and John Etheridge can play front jumper."

"And without a doubt John Steele's development has been critical. Everyone was talking about him the year we won promotion and his next season after that was difficult. But with Glenn tutoring him along, as he has the whole back division, you can see how much he has improved. This team is unlikely to change much over the next few years. "The main question will be to see how we survive without Shelford, if his role should change."



Oliver: captain's praise

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Roe playing it strictly by the book

FROM MEL WEBB IN JERSEY

SOMEBODY laid a large bet — alleged to be £1,000 at 40-1 — with a local bookmaker this week that Mark Roe would win the Jersey European Airways Open at La Moye, and yesterday Roe brought the unsuspecting turf accountant up with a jolt by producing a 65 in the second round to take the clubhouse lead.

Roe, who has a total of 134, ten under par, was at first unwilling to reveal the name of the mystery partner, beyond saying that he had not bet on himself. However, when subjected to the relentless inquisition of the Fourth Estate, he finally cracked. It might, he

said, have been one Andrew Chandler, who just happens to be his manager.

So the spotlight and the sand-filled sock were turned on Chandler, who goes through life blessed, or cursed as it may be, with the sobriquet of "Chubby". The reasons for that need not be gone into here. Until comparatively recently a tournament professional himself, and making a rare appearance this week as a player courtesy of a sponsor's invitation, he feigned injured innocence, followed in short order by a small smile and a sheepish admission.

Yes, he said, he had indeed placed a small, or even not so small, wager on his man. It was, perhaps, just as well that

he did — he missed the cut by a distance. Now he has an excuse to stay for the weekend.

Sadly, the news of Chandler's confidence in his client came too late for anybody else to get on to the same horse. As soon as the bet was struck, the bookie cut Roe's odds in half. If he had seen him play he might have taken him off the book altogether.

Fourth last week in the Roma Masters, he has run into a rich vein of form based, he said, on increased confidence on the greens. After taking a look at La Moye's slow greens, he had put a heavier club in his bag and found that just as hot as the one he had used in Italy: seven single putts and seven

birdies proved his point, and not a bogey in sight.

He might, in fact, have been further in the lead had he not three-putted the 17th and 18th greens the night before. "I was pretty cold out there, but I didn't want to put anything on to hide my new shirt," he said. The sacrifices some people will make to please a clothing contractor. It is a life of quiet courage and iron-willed self-denial, being a professional golfer.

Fourth last week in the Roma Masters, he has run into a rich vein of form based, he said, on increased confidence on the greens. After taking a look at La Moye's slow greens, he had put a heavier club in his bag and found that just as hot as the one he had used in Italy: seven single putts and seven

Confident Eastbourne prepare to celebrate

EASTBOURNE continued their march towards the final stages of the Halford Hewitt Cup with a 3 and 2 win over Rugby at Royal St George's, Sandwich, yesterday.

Today they tread new ground over the Royal Cinque Ports links at Deal against Edinburgh Academy for a place in the last eight.

Peter Davies, their skipper, has little doubt about the outcome. He has already bought an engraved silver cup to celebrate the first-round victory over Shrewsbury, the holders and favourites.

"The wunderkinder will see us through," he said, singling out Martin Patmore and Mark Stewart. Yesterday they

won 8 and 6 after Nigel Parsons and Chris Bradshaw lost 9 and 8 in the opening match.

Paul Wickman and Jeremy Miller, both Walton Heath, won 5 and 4 after losing the opening three holes, but then Chris Walker and Robert Meaby, one up at the 15th, lost by one hole.

In the final match Brian Meaby produced the shot of the tournament at the 13th. He was 60 yards left of the pin with his opponents three-and-a-half feet from the hole. His pitch and run finished two inches from the cup to provide the base for another Eastbourne success.

Results, page 55

مكتبة

Manchester United may have the edge over Nottingham Forest in Rumbelows Cup final

Pearce's absence may be decisive

BY STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WHEREAS the FA Cup final next month could yet feature a couple of comparative lightweights from the second division, the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow pits together the nation's heavyweight knockout specialists. At least, that is how the contest between Manchester United and Nottingham Forest was originally billed.

Forest have since been weakened and may resemble a pugilist who has struggled to make the weight. The image is appropriate. Because of their success in cup competitions this season, they recently had to play three times in a week to catch up on their League schedule.

Some of the muscles and limbs which have been exercised so regularly, have, inevitably, been either torn or twisted. Consequently, Forest are unlikely to be able to protect themselves sufficiently against United, who have been established as the favourites to win a trophy they have never before collected.

The loss of Stuart Pearce, who damaged knee liga-

ments during the victory over Southampton in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final a fortnight ago, could scarcely be more significant. There can be no adequate replacement for him, either as a spiritual leader or as a powerhouse of a left back.

The captain of England, Pearce has lifted Forest to three other triumphs at Wembley in the last four years. Without him, they have no one capable of smothering the obvious threat posed by the young player of the year, Ryan Giggs, on the right flank.

As if that was not bad enough, they will also be without Carl Tice, who suffered a similar injury at The Dell on Wednesday. Nor is that the end of their potential problems. Darren Wassall, Steve Chettle and Gary Charles are all considered to be doubtful.

Their defence, therefore, could be threadbare before the start. If so, it is sure to have disintegrated by the end. Now that Lee Sharpe is returning to the form which earned him international recognition a year ago, United

are again a penetrative attacking force as they demonstrated at Norwich City.

Alex Ferguson, having persisted in playing a game of musical chairs with his squad, claimed then that he had found the pattern for which he had been searching. He retained it in mid-week for a local derby, the ferocity of which will contrast with the approach habitually pursued by Brian Clough's side.

Although Bryan Robson is likely again to be unavailable, Ferguson could reinforce his own defence, the strongest in the first division, by replacing Mal Donaghy with Paul Parker. Absent for five games, he confirmed his recovery from a hamstring strain by performing with the reserves, along with Neil Webb and Mike Phelan, on Thursday.

Forest's elegance will enhance the occasion but their style promises to suit their opponents as much as the turf. After ploughing through the mudflat known as Old Trafford, United will relish gliding across the smooth greenery inside the national stadium and claiming their fourth Cup within two calendar years.

The additional prize is qualification for next season's UEFA Cup, a place they would forego if they achieve their prime ambition, a place in the European Cup which would be their right as champions. The glittering prospect, which has shown signs of unnerving them in the past few weeks, could, in turn, now be a slight distraction.

Forest have been responsible for imprinting a rare blemish on their season. One of their three League defeats was inflicted by Nigel Clough's lone goal at the City Ground three weeks ago. The current fixture is to be staged in Manchester on Easter Monday.

That may not be the last time they meet. A replay of the final, should it be necessary, has been scheduled for Goodison Park on May 6. Considering the respective records of the two clubs, a draw should not be discounted. United, other than being eliminated from the FA Cup on penalties, and Forest have each lost only one of their collective 34 ties this season.



On the ball: United may benefit if Giggs exploits the gap left by Pearce

NOTTM FOREST

A Marriott 1
B Laws 2
B Williams 3
D Walker 4
D Wassall 5
R Keane 6
G Crosby 7
S Gemmill 8
N Clough 9
E Sheringham 10
K Black 11

SUBSTITUTES: 12: L Glover; 13: I Woan.

MAN UNITED

P Schmeichel 1
P Parker 2
D Irwin 3
S Bruce 4
G Pallister 5
P Ince 6
L Sharpe 7
C Blackmore 8
B McClair 9
M Hughes 10
R Giggs 11

SUBSTITUTES: 12: M Phelan; 13: A Kanchelskis.

Referee: G Courtney.

PATHS TO THE FINAL

Nottingham Forest
Second round: First leg: Bolton Wanderers (h) 4-0 (Keane, Gynor 2, Black). Second leg: 5-2 (Sheringham, Keane 2, Gynor, Black). Forest won 5-2 on agg.
Third round: Bristol Rovers (h) 2-0 (Glover, Gemmill).
Fourth round: Southampton (h) 0-0. Replay: 1-0 (Gemmill).
Fifth round: Crystal Palace (a) 1-1 (Clough). Replay: 4-2 (Sheringham 3, Pearce).
Semi-final: First leg: Tottenham Hotspur (h) 1-1 (Sheringham). Second leg: 2-1 after extra time (Glover, Keane). Forest won 3-2 on agg.

Manchester United
Second round: First leg: Cambridge United (h) 3-0 (Giggs, McClair, Bruce). Second leg: 1-1 (McClair). United won 4-1 on agg.
Third round: Portsmouth (h) 3-1 (Robins 2, Robson).
Fourth round: Oldham Athletic (h) 2-0 (McClair, Kanchelskis).
Fifth round: Leeds United (a) 3-1 (Blackmore, Kanchelskis, Giggs).
Semi-final: First leg: Middlesbrough (a) 0-0. Second leg: 2-1 after extra time (Sharpe, Giggs). United won 2-1 on agg.
BETTING (Coral): 5-1 Manchester United; 11-8 Nottingham Forest.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

First division

Arsenal v Crystal Palace

Will Palace hit on the right way to find Selhurst Park's former favourite forward and his colleagues on a high after a run of 12 matches without defeat. But Steve Coppell's side can draw strength from only one loss in its last seven games. A new high ball could be flying at Highbury where Arsenal give Winterburn and Dixon late fitness tests and continue to omit the overused Smith. Palace are without Rodger but recall Mortimer. They will be only too well aware that seven goals in their last five games have made Arsenal the first division's leading scorers.

Aston Villa v Liverpool

Dalian Atkinson has failed to live up to expectations at Villa Park, but is offering the chance to salvage something from a disappointing season by being recalled to the attack after recovery from a virus. Small stands by to dispense in defence for the injured Stanton, once of Liverpool, while Daley hopes to return on the wing. Yorke plays his final Villa game before flying to the Caribbean to be part of Trinidad and Tobago's World Cup qualifying challenge. Villa will trust that Liverpool are distracted by thoughts of the FA Cup semi-final replay with Portsmouth on Monday. Ronnie Moran, in charge while Graeme Souness recovers from heart surgery, chooses from 18.

Everton v Sheffield Utd

A single defeat in their last seven games has ensured that Sheffield United's status among the elite is secure for at least another season. They could offer Ward and Hartfield a taste of first team action, while Everton may include Colby and Nevill, two forwards who apparently have no part in Howard Kendall's long term plans. Keown faces a late fitness test on his knee.

Leeds v Chelsea

One win in their past five games has taken much of the fizz out of Leeds United's championship challenge, but if they win today they could overtake Manchester United at the top. Manchester United, who have a game in hand, contest the Rumbelows Cup final tomorrow. While it is fit to return to central defence, while Speed, still only 22, makes his hundredth appearance. Townsend back after suspension and are expected to persevere with Cascardino in attack, leaving Dixon to warm the bench.

Notts County v Coventry

County virtually accepted the inevitability of relegation to the second division, which they only lost last year. After Wednesday's home defeat by Tottenham, but they could yet drag Coventry down with them. Don Howe's side, who will be anxious to hear how Luton fare at Oldham, are likely to replace Sealey with Ogilovic in goal.

Barnett will lead the County attack

24 hours before competing in the Rumbelows Cup final, County, involving England's most foot-talented players, which will precede Tottenham's match at Wembley.

Oldham v Luton

Alec Chamberlain played so well in goal on his first first team appearance in more than four months that he has been named in the County squad. Chamberlain, who has been named in the County squad, has been named in the County squad. Chamberlain, who has been named in the County squad, has been named in the County squad.

QPR v Tottenham

The midweek win at Meadow Lane may have effectively secured Tottenham's Premier League presence next season, but the future of Peter Shrewsbury, their team manager, remains the subject of some speculation. Whoever is in charge next term will have to make do without Linaker, who has scored some deep blushes in North London with seven goals in the last four games. During four months in his attack today. But having ruffled the feather of both Manchester and Leeds United this season, QPR are no longer regarded as a reserve, his debut in attack.

Sheff Wed v Man City

City have not won away in the League since succeeding at Southampton on November 2, and must cross the Pennines without Quinn, their all-important centre forward. While will take over the No. 9 shirt with Reid, Brightwell and Clarke all vying to join the starting eleven. Trevor Francis, Wednesday manager, is expected to name himself as a substitute and Warburton as the central defender. deputy for the injured Shurtliff, as the Yorkshire side pursue a UEFA Cup place.

West Ham v Norwich

Doomed to demotion as they apparently are, West Ham could make life uncomfortable for a Norwich side which has suffered four successive defeats and whose players are still smarting from an FA Cup semi-final defeat by Sunderland last Sunday. Injuries to Colverhouse, Crook, Phillips, Fleck and Power, force Norwich to abandon their sweeper system for an orthodox four-man defence. West Ham include Martin, aged 33 and available for a free transfer, while omitting Gao, Foster and McAviney. A Norwich win would erase slight East Anglian relegation worries, not to mention the pressure suddenly on the shoulders of Dave Stringer, their manager.

Compiled by Louise Taylor

Smith rejects offer of a new contract

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

ALAN Smith's future at Arsenal seemed increasingly uncertain yesterday when he refused to sign a new contract at the first division club after being omitted from the first team for the last five games.

The England forward, who has a year outstanding on his contract at Highbury, has turned down an offer of an extension. Smith, aged 29, is concerned that he will be left out of England's squad for the European championship in Sweden in June. He has been linked with a possible transfer to Aston Villa, who have struggled to produce goals in the past year.

They are interested in a player, who has scored 16 times for Arsenal this season, in addition to claiming the winner for England against Turkey earlier this season and England B against Czechoslovakia last month. Since then George Gra-

ham, the manager, has modified Arsenal's previously direct style of attack in which Smith's aerial power played an important role. The new partnership of Ian Wright and Kevin Campbell has produced seven goals in the last five games, making Arsenal the first division's leading scorers, but leaving Smith frustrated.

The player said: "I have to play first team football. Not being in the Arsenal team is not doing my England chances any good at all. The European Championship is getting closer and I really do want to go."

But Graham said: "I want Smith to stay and he will be here next season. I will be having another chat with him during the summer and I hope he will sign a new extended contract, because I believe he is probably the best target man in Britain."

Britain's sailors hit form

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN HYÈRES, FRANCE

BRITISH sailors, led by Adrian Stead and his crew, Peter Allam, had a field day at the French pre-Olympic regatta off here yesterday, overcoming the light, fickle conditions to capture four of the first five places in the Flying Dutchman class and first place among the Finn single handers.

It was Stuart Childerley who led the Finns home to bolster his lead in the British Olympic trials, but with Will Henderson and Andy Harrop finishing a close second to Stead and Allam, the points could not be closer between these two fast-improving Flying Dutchman crews.

In contrast, Barrie Edgington, the Olympic class windsurfer world champion, had a poor day, finishing 28th, but he retains second place overall within the fleet and has built up a commanding 180-point lead over Jonathan Hutchcroft, his closest rival for the Olympic berth.

Last night, the 470s were struggling to finish in the light conditions. Paul Brotherton and Andrew Hemmings, who have led the men's class throughout, have built up such a commanding lead in the British trials that Nigel Buckley and Peter Newlands, world champions four years ago, decided yesterday to withdraw from the selection process.

Spain's Diego, with both yachts already assured of their places in the America's Cup challenger series final, New Zealand, skippered by Rod Davis, beat 11 Moro di Venezia by 2min 20sec.

Chen makes fine start

Two singles wins by Chen Xinhua helped England to a 4-2 victory over Austria on the opening day of the European table tennis championships in Stuttgart yesterday.

With Austria regarded as one of their main rivals, his success may well ensure England finish in the medals for the third successive championship.

Strike talks

Ice hockey: NHL officials have reopened talks with players in an attempt to end the ten-day strike in North America.

Redgrave absent

Rowing: Steve Redgrave, twice a winner, misses the Scullers' Head race from Mortlake to Putney today, preferring to concentrate on rowing with his world champion partner, Matthew Pinsent.

Courier closes in

Tennis: Jim Courier, of the United States, moved a step closer to regaining the world No. 1 ranking from Stefan Edberg by beating Andrei Mansdorf, of Israel, 7-6, 6-4 in the quarter-finals of the Japan Open.

Team is unified

Athletics: A united African team, including athletes from South Africa, will compete in a triangular international involving France and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Tours in September.

Alcock through

Bowls: Tony Alcock reached the quarter-finals of the Manchester Unity EIBA singles championship with a 21-15 win over Roy Cutts at Melton Mowbray.

BADMINTON

KUALA LUMPUR: Asian championship: Singles: Men: Singles: 1st, S. Suprenant (Indo), 15-8, 15-17, 15-8; 2nd, Poo Kok Keong (Malaysia); 3rd, Fung Permadi (Indo); 4th, S. Suprenant (Indo). Women: Singles: Semi-finals: Ye Zhenying (China) vs S. Suprenant (Thailand), 11-11, 11-5; Zhou Lei (China) vs P. Jung Min (S. Korea), 10-12, 11-8, 11-5.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St Louis Cardinals: 1st, Montreal Expos; 2nd, Pittsburgh Pirates; 3rd, Philadelphia Phillies; 4th, Chicago Cubs; 5th, San Francisco Giants; 6th, Los Angeles Dodgers; 7th, Houston Astros; 8th, Cincinnati Reds; 9th, New York Yankees; 10th, Kansas City Royals; 11th, New York Mets; 12th, Boston Red Sox; 13th, Baltimore Orioles; 14th, Cleveland Indians; 15th, Seattle Mariners; 16th, California Angels; 17th, Toronto Blue Jays; 18th, Detroit Tigers; 19th, Minnesota Twins; 20th, Milwaukee Brewers; 21st, Oakland Athletics; 22nd, Texas Rangers; 23rd, San Diego Padres; 24th, St. Louis Cardinals; 25th, New York Yankees; 26th, Boston Red Sox; 27th, Baltimore Orioles; 28th, Cleveland Indians; 29th, Seattle Mariners; 30th, California Angels; 31st, Toronto Blue Jays; 32nd, Detroit Tigers; 33rd, Minnesota Twins; 34th, Milwaukee Brewers; 35th, Oakland Athletics; 36th, Texas Rangers; 37th, San Diego Padres; 38th, St. Louis Cardinals; 39th, New York Yankees; 40th, Boston Red Sox; 41st, Baltimore Orioles; 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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY APRIL 11 1992

Faldo starts Masters second round with a run of pars

Ballesteros battles to avoid cruellest cut

FROM MITCHELL PLATT'S
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

SEVERIANO Ballesteros gave himself a good chance of surviving the halfway cut in the Masters at Augusta National here yesterday with birdies at each of the last two holes to complete a second round of 68.

The Spaniard set himself a stiff task with a first round of 75 and looked to be on the borderline until his finishing flourish. The leading 44 players and ties make the halfway cut plus any others within ten shots of the lead.

"I think the last birdie could be very important," Ballesteros said. "I putted better today than in the first round but I still didn't make as many as I should have done."

Jeff Sluman and Lanny Wadkins, who shared the first-round lead after rounds of 65, looked the most likely to set the mark as they went out three shots in front of their American compatriots, Davis Love III, Mike Hulbert and Ted Schulz, and the Australian, Wayne Grady.

Ian Woosnam, the defending champion, Steven Richardson, Bernhard Langer, Fred Couples and Jack

Nicklaus, who all began with rounds of 69, were also in contention. Woosnam began with two birdies.

Nick Faldo and John Daly, who both had first rounds of 71, took with them the largest crowd of the day and, arguably, the largest second-day gallery since Arnold Palmer was in his prime. Faldo began with eight successive pars.

Ballesteros putted abysmally in his first round and he knew that, to survive, he would need to regain his touch as he began his second round on a warm, windless day. At the 1st he made it easy for himself by hitting a nine-iron to two feet.

There seemed good reason to believe that Ballesteros might be on for one of his inspirational rounds when, at the 2nd, he came out of a greenside bunker to eight feet from where he holed for another birdie.

He certainly appeared to be in a positive frame of mind as he attacked the teasing 3rd hole with a driver to leave himself a simple pitch. Yet he left the shot 30 feet short and so wasted a wonderful opportunity of a third successive birdie.

Thereafter, Ballesteros struck one indifferent shot after another but stuck to the

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	350	5	11	455	4
3	350	4	12	155	3
4	435	3	13	465	5
5	350	4	14	465	5
6	180	3	15	500	6
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	390	4	17	420	4
9	425	4	18	405	4

task of keeping his score intact. He held his nerve at the 6th by holing from 12 feet after leaving his first putt that distance short from 60 feet.

At the 7th, he drove left into the trees. Ballesteros threaded the ball out of the undergrowth with the intention of running it up a six-foot grass path between bunkers to the green. He came within a whisker of bringing off the shot but the ball stopped on the path short of the green. From there he had a delicate chip which he got to five feet, holed and saved his par.

Ballesteros was fortunate to be out in 34. He had stayed in good humour, talking much of the way with his amateur partner, David Berganio Jr, the US Public Links champion, but he tested his own patience at the 10th and 11th.

The Spaniard hit a poor

approach into a bunker at the 10th, exploded out to six feet and holed. But he failed to escape at the 11th, where he struck wild trees deep in the white dogwoods on the right. In playing his recovery out almost sideways, Ballesteros hit a stone which he angrily kicked as he moved on to the fairway.

Ballesteros and Berganio, who played some masterful shots but took longer and longer to do so, were warned for slow play at the 12th by David Eger, of the United States Golf Association. They had lost two holes on the march in front and they were holding up the one behind, which happened to be Arnold Palmer and Gary Player. In the Masters it is possible to be disqualified for repeated offences.

Ballesteros got up and down again at the 12th, holing from six feet, and he gave himself hope with a birdie at the 15th. It was hard work, however, and this just for a chance of making the halfway cut. But he holed from three feet at the 17th and from four feet at the 18th.

Jose-Maria Olazábal attached a 69 to his first round of 76 for 145 and so, like Ballesteros, he was compelled to wait to see what target the leaders would set. Olazábal had a look of total disinterest as he toured the course but he did not drop a single shot.

David Feherty, out in 38, was in need of a change of fortune after a first round of 73 and Colin Montgomerie, who began with a 72, took six at the 1st, although he recovered one shot with a birdie at the 5th. He was out in 37.

Sandy Lyle made a better start with birdies at two of the first three holes. He gave them back with fours at the short 4th and 6th holes but he made another birdie at the 8th. He was out in 35.

Rodger Davis, of Australia, took advantage of the fine conditions to compile a 68, which put him on 145.

EARLY SECOND-ROUND SCORES (US unless stated): 141: M O'Meara, 74, 67, 142: J Gallacher, 74, 68, 143: S Ballesteros, 74, 68, 144: D Purdy, 74, 68, 145: R Davis, 74, 68, 146: T Purdy, 74, 68, 147: A M O'Connell, 74, 68, 148: L Jansen, 74, 71, 149: D Berganio Jr, 74, 71, 150: M O'Connell, 77, 71, 151: C Fiebert, 77, 71, 152: G Player, 74, 75, 153: A Palmer, 75, 73, 154: R Cochrane, 75, 74, 155: P Stewart, 74, 75, 156: H Butler, 75, 75, 157: G Brewer, 77, 77, 158: D Ford, 82, 82, 159: J Stuart, 79, 79, 160: D Ford, 82, 82, 161: J Stuart, 79, 79, 162: D Ford, 82, 82, 163: J Stuart, 79, 79, 164: D Ford, 82, 82, 165: J Stuart, 79, 79, 166: D Ford, 82, 82, 167: J Stuart, 79, 79, 168: D Ford, 82, 82, 169: J Stuart, 79, 79, 170: D Ford, 82, 82, 171: J Stuart, 79, 79, 172: D Ford, 82, 82, 173: J Stuart, 79, 79, 174: D Ford, 82, 82, 175: J Stuart, 79, 79, 176: D Ford, 82, 82, 177: J Stuart, 79, 79, 178: D Ford, 82, 82, 179: J Stuart, 79, 79, 180: D Ford, 82, 82, 181: J Stuart, 79, 79, 182: D Ford, 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